MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MARCH 1982

Israel

Jerusalem Visit Issue -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared at a meeting with Jewish Agency Board trustees that he will not visit Egypt as long as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak does not visit Israel, and emphasized that Israel will not receive a guest who demonstrates against Jerusalem, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin added that Anwar as-Sadat would not have hesitated to visit Jerusalem, and that the two countries might have reached greater understanding had As-Sadat not been murdered. According to the radio, Begin stressed that Israel would fulfill every detail of the peace treaty, and expressed hope that Egypt would do the same.

According to HA'ARETZ, the official Egyptian position is that a Mubarak visit to Jerusalem would lead to a storm and be exploited negatively by opponents of peace in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. Jerusalem television said it is believed in Jerusalem that Mubarak will not come to Israel in the foreseeable future. According to Egyptian sources cited by the television, the controversy over inclusion of Jerusalem in the itinerary will add to Mubarak's prestige in the Arab world and ease a resumption of an Arab-Egyptian dialogue.

Opposition to Withdrawal -- The Tehiya faction, which opposes the Sinai withdrawal, submitted a motion of no confidence in the government on the issue, Jerusalem radio reported. Citing Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, Jerusalem radio said the Alignment will abstain in the vote. Peres explained that although his party has no confidence in the Cabinet, it also does not want to support the actions of Tehiya and Gush Emunim.

Rabbi Hayim Druckman resigned his post as deputy minister of religious affairs and will vote against the government, according to Jerusalem television.

Habib Mission -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met with Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Jerusalem radio reported. According to Israeli officials cited by the radio, the United States, Israel and other Middle Eastern elements have a mutual interest in Habib fulfilling all aspects of his mission, which include preservation of the cease-fire, removal of Syrian missiles and PLO withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Citing authoritative sources in Jerusalem, the radio said that Habib praised Israel for displaying restraint toward the terrorists despite its having justification for operating against them. In its preview of Habib's arrival, the radio claimed that a reputable source who helped work out the cease-fire agreement believes that Israel can justify its view that any hostile activity stemming from Lebanon violates the cease-fire.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview -- In an interview with representatives of LE MONDE and Radio Luxembourg broadcast by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad claimed that the recent unrest in Hamah was planned by the United States in cooperation with some quarters in the region and was intended to subjugate Syria to U.S. aims. He added that the United States is manipulating the Muslim Brotherhood in the belief that creating problems may induce Syria to submit to Israeli wishes, but that despite the large quantities of arms which the United States via its agents has given to the Brotherhood, a group of terrorist reactionaries cannot achieve anything important for U.S. interests. Asked whether Syria will accept a peace agreement if the Golan is returned to it, Al-Asad replied that UN resolutions provide for conferences under UN supervision and that a proposal of bilateral negotiations is an attempt to impose Israel's will. Noting that Premier of Vichy France Henri Petain is considered a traitor because he negotiated with the Germans while they were still occupying French territory, Al-Asad conveyed by a rhetorical question that Syria cannot accept srael's terms for negotiations under similar conditions.

Security Situation -- An article in LIBERATION cited by AFP claimed that between 8,000 and 10,000 people died in the fighting in Hamah last month. Official Syrian sources cited by Monte Carlo radio stressed that normal life has returned to the city. Voice of Lebanon radio said that 200 tanks left Hamah's central quarters on 1 March. The radio also reported a 3-hour clash in a suburb of Aleppo and explosions in various suburbs of that city.

Support for Libya -- In an announcer-read statement on Damascus radio, a "responsible source" referred to a series of U.S. "military threats and economic measures" against Libya, expressed Syria's total solidarity with Libya and stressed that Syria stands by Libya with all the means it possesses in confronting U.S. threats and provocations.

Sudan

Security Situation -- A bomb-laden car exploded on 28 February near Shajarah oil depots but caused no damage, SUNA reported citing an authorized state security source. The source revealed that two similar attempts were discovered at other important sites, but the bombs were defused before they could explode. He added that security investigations showed that Libya is behind the sabotage efforts. He also said security organs observed that Libyan agents were active in instigating the latest riots.

Sudan's Third Vice President and Chief of Security 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib told the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH that only two foreigners and three Sudanese were killed in recent disturbances. He added that there are now no students under arrest and no political detainees in the country's prisons.

Jordan

King Husayn said in an interview with ABC, broadcast by Amman television, that Jordan will submit its request for U.S. weapons at the next meeting of the U.S.-Jordanian military committee. The king opined that Iraq is a front line not only for Jordan but for the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and Oman, and noted that for a number of years Jordan has been contributing to security in the Gulf area, Oman and northern Yemen. After asserting he would never go to Jerusalem under Israeli occupation, as Anwar as-Sadat had done, Husayn referred to a 1967 U.S. commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 242 within 6 months and said by contrast, the U.S. role now is not even that of a mediator, but of a bearer of views from one side to another.

Iran

Mahdavi-Kani-Khomeyni Meeting -- Tehran radio carried a report delivered by supervisor of the Islamic revolution committees Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani at a meeting with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and revolution committee and Guards Corps members. Mahdavi-Kani said that during the past 3 years dozens of patrolling guards and clergymen in charge of committees were martyred "each month, each week" by counterrevolutionaries. In view of the guards' responsibilities on the battlefields, Mahdavi-Kani asked Khomeyni to extend the role of the committees in the cities.

Khamene'i Interview -- Iran's policy is based on political confrontation with the United States and Iran will try to block U.S. dictatorship and gangsterism at the United Nations, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said in an interview with the Tehran TIMES reported by IRNA. Khamene'i added that Iran has no inclinations toward the Soviet Union and condemns its invasion of Afghanistan.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 041 *2 March 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab League Anxious About Attacks on Eritreans [TAP] A 1
'Arafat Discusses Security With Muhsin Ibrahim [VOP] A 1
'Arafat Recuperates, Receives Ministers, Envoy [VOP] A 1
Fatah Leader Comments on Habib Mission [Monte Carlo] A 2
Khalaf on Syria Relations, Mitterrand Visit [VOP] A 3
Hawatimah Comments on Planned Israeli Aggression [KUNA] A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Chairs Cabinet Session 28 Feb C 1
Investigation of Sabotage Plot Concluded C 1
Amir Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi C 2
Amir Receives Kuwaiti Defense Minister C 2
Minister Leaves for Home C 2
Kuwaiti Chief of Staff Meets Heir Apparent C 3
Malaysian Prime Minister Pays 3-Day Visit C 3
Received by Amir C 3
Talks Begin C 3
Foreign Ministers Meet C 4
Prime Minister Departs C 4
Joint Statement Issued C 4
Gulf, Peninsula Agriculture Ministers Confer C 7

KUWAIT

KUNA Chairman Urges Egypt: 'Return to Arab Fold' C 7
Official Denies YAR Requested GCC Membership C 8
[Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM 24 Feb]
Third Satellite Ground Station Opened 27 Feb C 8
[ARAB TIMES 28 Feb]

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Interviewed on Threats to Country C 9
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 26 Feb]
Defense Posts Set Up on S. Yemen Border C 9
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 1 Mar]

QATAR

YAR President Concludes 2-Day Official Visit C 10
Statement to QNA C 10
Leaves for Home C 11
Press Statement Issued C 11
Defense Minister Receives Jordanian Commander C 12
Amir, Heir Apparent Receive UK's Hurd 1 Mar C 12

SAUDI ARABIA

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit C 13
Received by Khalid C 13
Aid Agreement Concluded C 13
Talks Begin C 14
Press Conference Held C 14
Leaves for Qatar C 16

UAE

Lebanese Prime Minister Holds Press Conference C 16
Daily: Habib To Consolidate Israel's Position C 17
[AL-ITTIHAD 26 Feb]
Briefs: Aid to Palestinian University C 17

EGYPT

Autonomy Committee Conducts Procedural Session D 1
Tel Aviv To Host Next Round of Withdrawal Talks D 1
'Ali Conveys Mubarak Message to European Envoys D 1
UK, FRG, French Envoys D 1
Italian, Austrian Envoys D 1
Assembly Committee Backs Mubarak's Mideast Stand D 2
AL-JUMHURIYAH on Habib Visit to Mideast [27 Feb] D 2
Radio Commentary Denies Lebanese War Inevitable D 2
Minister Ghali States OAU Split 'Serious' D 3
Policy Reversed on Buying USSR, GDR Newsprint [AFP] D 4
AFP Reports Plans To Charge 2,170 in Coup Plot D 4
More Indictments Expected in Assembly Case D 4
Mubarak To Meet NDP Caucus for Policy Review D 5
Al-Baz Statement on NDP Bureau Meeting D 5

IRAQ

'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses Group of 77 Meeting E 1
Oil Minister Cites Grave Oil Market Situation E 1
Husayn, YAR President Tour Frontline Positions E 2
Salih Departure Statement E 2
VOAS Reports Two Explosions in Homs Province E 3
Mujahadin Continue Resistance in Hamah [VOAS] E 3
Bulgarian National Assembly Chairman Arrives E 3
Received by Ramadan E 3
Confers With Haddad E 4
Minister Ramadan Confers With Hungary's Marjai E 4

JORDAN

Husayn Discusses Arms Sales In ABC Interview F 1
Jordanian Daily on King Husayn's Interview [AR-RA'Y 1 Mar] F 3
AD-DUSTUR: Mubarak's Israeli Trip a 'Real Test' [2 Mar] F 4
King Receives European Parliament Delegation F 5
Army Commander Departs Amman for Qatar Visit F 5

LEBANON

Military Buildup Increases Amidst Bombs, Clashes G 1
Prime Minister Discusses Recent Bomb Attacks G 1
London Weekly Interviews Prime Minister [AL-HAWADITH 26 Feb] G 1
Al-Wazzan Interviewed on Habib Discussions G 4

SYRIA

LE MONDE, Radio Luxembourg Interview Al-Asad H 1
VOL on Hamah Situation, Explosions in Aleppo H 6
Sources Stress: Hamah's Normal Life Resumed [Monte Carlo] H 6

ISRAEL

Police Hold 23 Sinai 'Invaders' in Detention I 1
Sharon Promises To Rescind MK Restrictions I 1
Journalists Allowed To Enter Gaza, Sinai I 1
Begin Admonishes Eytan for Remarks in Yamit I 1
Begin's Office Denies Report I 1
Sharon, Eytan Differ on Sinai Situation I 2
Alignment To Abstain From Nonconfidence Vote I 2
Prime Minister Believes Druckman Should Resign I 3
Druckman Resigns on Nonconfidence Vote Issue I 3
Yamit District Settlers Pledge Not To Fight IDF I 3
Inspections at Yamit Roadblocks 'Very Lenient' I 3
Press Views Yamit, Withdrawal Opposition I 3
DAVAR: Security, Like Justice, Must Be Seen [28 Feb] I 4
Shamir Addresses Cabinet on Relations With Egypt [HA'ARETZ 1 Mar] I 6
Cario Sources: 'Artificial Crisis' Being Created [DAVAR 1 Mar] I 7
Egypt Says Visit to Jerusalem Would Harm Peace [HA'ARETZ 1 Mar] I 8
Egyptian Foreign Minister To Visit Next Week [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Mar] I 8
Mubarak Will Not Visit in 'Foreseeable Future' I 8
No Mubarak Visit, No Visit to Egypt Says Begin I 8
Begin, Shamir, Sharon Meet With Philip Habib I 9
Further Details I 9
Habib Departs I 10
Arens Views U.S.-Israeli Relations, Lebanon I 10
U.S. Statements on Lebanon To Be Refuted I 12
Document on Terrorist Deployment Released [DAVAR 2 Mar] I 12
Sharon Comments on Lebanon, Ties With France I 13
Cheysson To Meet Mayors From Territories I 13
Mitterrand Visit To Not Include Joint Communique [DAVAR 1 Mar] I 14
HA'ARETZ Outlines Mitterrand's Official Schedule [28 Feb] I 14
IDF Prepares for Lengthy Stay on Golan [HA'ARETZ 1 Mar] I 15
AL-MAJALLAH Interviews West Bank Leaders [5 Mar] I 16
Army, Palestinian Students Clash in Ramallah [AFP] I 19
Begin, Elat Mayor Discusses Egyptian Border I 19
Sinai Border Dispute Must Be Settled by 26 April [HA'ARETZ 2 Mar] I 19

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Officials Address OAU Meeting, Issue Statements P 1
SWAPO Secretary [Addis Ababa] P 1
Egyptian Statement [Cairo] P 2
Saharan Minister [AFP] P 2
Morocco's Tazi [MAP] P 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Council of Ministers Holds Meeting 28 Feb Q 1

MOROCCO

Trade Union Statement Calls for Leaders' Release [AFP] Q 1

SUDAN

Bomb Explodes Near Shajarah Oil Depots 28 Feb Q 1
Vice President Comments on Security Situation Q 2
AS-SIYASAH Interview [23 Feb] Q 2
Statement to AL-MADINAH [27 Feb] Q 3
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Chad 25 Feb Q 4
Numayri Receives Delegation Q 4

TUNISIA

Visiting Al-Qadhdhafi Grants TV Interview 26 Feb [JANA] Q 5
TAP Describes Agreements Reached With Libya Q 12

WESTERN SAHARA

Abdelaziz Cables Castro on OAU Membership Q 13

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Ministry Condemns Arab League Interference R 1
Administrative Council Announces Army Promotions R 2

KENYA

Britain's Lord Carrington Arrives for Talks R 2
Moi Cautions Against Discrediting Government R 2

UGANDA

Obote Receives Sudanese Envoy, Papal Official R 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MLPC Chairman Patasse Returns to Bangui [AFP] S 1

CHAD

FAN To Respect Unilaterally OAU Cease-Fire [AFP] S 1
Government Troops Circle Town Captured by FAN [AFP] S 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Soviet Ambassador Holds Press Conference 23 Feb T 1

GHANA

Foreign Secretary Outlines Reform Program [Addis Ababa] T 1
Interim National Health Council Appointed T 2
PNDC Members Inaugurate Police Defense Committee T 2

GUINEA

Government Suspends Participating in OAU [AFP] T 3

NIGER

Communique Says Relations With Libya Resumed T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

DPRK Economic Delegation Arrives in Luanda U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Armed Forces Clash With 'Bandits' in Sofala U 1
Government To Arm Citizens in Inhambane Province [Dar es Salaam] U 1
Bulgarian Party Delegation Arrives 27 Feb U 1

ZAMBIA

Ministry Cites 'Serious Incident' at Zaire Border U 2

ZIMBABWE

Demonstration Demands Action Against Nkomo U 2
Mugabe Asks Britain's Carrington for More Help U 2

ARAB LEAGUE ANXIOUS ABOUT ATTACKS ON ERITREANS

LD261556 Tunis TAP in English 1426 GMT 26 Feb 82

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (TAP) -- The Arab League General Secretariat expressed its strong anxiety at the violent attacks which are still launched by the Ethiopian Armed Forces against the Eritrean people at the time when efforts are being carried out in order to instaure [as received] between the two parties a peace which guarantees the Eritrean people's legitimate rights to self-determination.

In its communique published on Friday evening in Tunis, the General Secretariat pointed out that by having recourse to the chemical war, to fight gases, to prohibited napalm bombs in its military operations (this has been reported by information sources), the Ethiopian Government is violating the international law and Geneva's conventions.

It appealed to the Ethiopian Government to put an end to its repeated attacks against the Eritrean people. These attacks, went on the communique, made according to all sources several victims and provoked destruction.

The league's General Secretariat furthermore invited the Eritreans and their leaders to joint their ranks and to constitute a joint front in order to realise the yearnings of their people. It also appealed to them to end their marginal disputes in accordance with the Tunis agreement recommendations and to be aware of the fact that the Eritrean people's unity is highly necessary for winning battles and for installing peace.

'ARAFAT DISCUSSES SECURITY WITH MUHSIN IBRAHIM

JN281550 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] PLO Chairman 'Arafat yesterday evening met with the executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement, Muhsin Ibrahim.

During the meeting, the situation in northern Lebanon was discussed in light of the implementation of the measures taken to resolve the problems there and bring security and peace back to the area. Following the meeting, Ibrahim stated that measures taken by the joint leaderships in cooperation with the Arab Deterrent Forces and nationalist villages in the north are being implemented. This, he said, calls for optimism as a step towards ending the problems and bringing peace and security to the region.

In a press conference yesterday, Muhsin Ibrahim also praised the role 'Arafat has played in resolving the problems and other issues in Tripoli. Life in Tripoli has returned to normal with calm now prevailing for the past 3 days.

'ARAFAT RECUPERATES, RECEIVES MINISTERS, ENVOY

JN011902 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning received the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon. Our correspondent learned that the visit was to inquire about the health of Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar after his recovery from his illness. Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his gratitude for his kind gesture. Last night Brother Abu 'Ammar received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah who had come to inquire about his health.

FATAH LEADER COMMENTS ON HABIB MISSION

'N262128 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Interview granted by Abu Iyad, Fatah second-in-command Salah Khalaf, to Monte Carlo correspondent Basim al-Mu'allim in Beirut -- carried in "It Happened Tomorrow" program: recorded]

[Text] [Question] Brother Abu Iyad, there has been a great deal of talk about the possibility of Israel attacking the south and attacking you the south. Do you share such a view? And if so, how do you substantiate it?

[Answer] With regard to the south, we have divided the subject into two sections: one dealing with information and the other dealing with analysis. The information section confirms that several European and friendly sources have informed us about the possibility of aggression. This is in addition to the statements of the Israeli officials who continue up to now to threaten to deal a big blow to the south.

I believe some of this information was leaked by Israel itself to intimidate the resistance and to freeze all its activities in the occupied territory. Israel wants to benefit from the cease-fire agreement reached in the south so as to make it apply to other fronts, including the people in the occupied territory. We would not be surprised if, say, a demonstration or protest march took place tomorrow in the occupied territory. Israel would threaten us, and even attack us if we reacted to its provocation.

This leads us to the analysis which says Israel will not attack, especially since it seems that the Soviet Union and the United States do not want any tension in the region. Both of them are putting constant pressure on Israel not to attack our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and our fedayeen and joint forces in the south.

Therefore, I am inclined to think these days that the question is one of an attempt to intimidate and freeze rather than to strike at the south.

[Question] The Israelis are claiming you are reinforcing your military presence in the south. They are also claiming Saudi Arabia has recently financed the purchase of Soviet-made weapons, which were tranferred to your forces in the south. Is this true?

[Answer] Israel does not need a justificaton for aggression. It always invents baseless excuses to carry out aggression against the Arab region in general and the south in particular. First, both Israel and the United States definitely know through intelligence and satellites, that the military situation in the south has not changed. It has stayed as it is. The talk about a Saudi-financed deal is not true, especially since there are no arms deals between us and the Soviet Union. We may have been receiving military aid for a long time, but this aid is small.

I believe the purpose of the Israeli claim is to intimidate or prepare the public for a major aggression against the south. On this occasion, I would like to say that if no aggression takes place now, this does not mean the end of aggression. The frequent talk by Israel about a Saudi-financed arms deal indicates an intention to commit aggression at any time. When? This is left to Israel. Therefore, there is no arms deal with the USSR. Consequently, no Saudi funds were paid for this deal. However, there has always been normal Soviet aid.

[Question] Therefore, you have not reinforced your military presence in the south?

[Answer] I challenge anyone to prove that our forces in the south have been increased over the past 2 years. But this does not mean we are not in a state of mobilization and alert. If aggression takes place, it would be a major battle and we would fight with full courage and manliness regardless of the sacrifices.

[Question] Philip Habib returned to Beirut today. What do you think he will bring? Will he bring an olive branch for the south, and therefore the region?

[Answer] I may be among those who are not optimistic about Habib's visit, because after every visit we suffered a crisis in the region. However, I believe that at this stage, the United States is not inclined toward any military operation in the south. Therefore, I believe Philip Habib might be in the region for this purpose. This is one of his tasks. But there may be other tasks connected with the presidential elections in Lebanon, Syria and also Jordan. In addition to these tasks, I believe the United States does not think it is in its interest now, before the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, to disturb the atmosphere in the region. Consequently, it is more inclined toward pressing Israel not to commit any military stupidity in the south.

[Question] Let us suppose Israel had struck and your expectations had been wrong, what implications would you expect from such a strike?

[Answer] To be honest, the fighters in the south, whether Palestinians or Lebanese, will defend the south. They will fight ferociously in defense of the south. They will not permit the aggression to achieve its objective in Lebanon or anywhere else. Of course, we have to be practical and say we do not claim we have the military power to defeat Israel. But we certainly have the power to inflict the heaviest losses on the army which tries to occupy the south or carry out a military operation in the south. We are certain of this.

I said a while ago that our manpower and military preparations have not increased more than necessary. But I also say morale is very high. The young men have heard so much about the aggression that they now ask? Where is the aggression, and when will it come?

On the other hand, some people do not understand the Palestinian revolution. This revolution is destined to stay, not to die. Therefore, a blow in the south would affect all U.S. interests in the region. We know that after the Jerash and 'Ajlun in Jordan and after every big blow to the resistance, the Palestinian always swiftly turned to revolutionary violence and political action. Therefore, I believe that even if the blow had achieved some of its objectives, that would have affected all U.S. interests in the region. I am not saying this to cause agitation. But I am confident that if the Palestinian revolution lost a big part of its military power, the remaining fighters would resort to other action. In short, they would resort to revolutionary violence.

KHALAF ON SYRIA RELATIONS, MITTERRAND VISIT

NC011224 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] In a statement to a news agency, Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] described reports of differences between the Palestinian resistance and Syria as exaggerated. He said that the essence of relations between us and Syria is fateful and that our meetings with Syrian officials are continuing and will lead to good results.

On the potential for the Zionist enemy's launching a military operation, Brother Abu Iyad said the future battlefield will not be in southern Lebanon only, but will include Ad-Damur and other areas.

Abu Iyad pointed out that Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the so-called Lebanese forces, has sent approximately 1,000 people to Israeli training camps to conduct joint maneuvers for training on occupying Ad-Damur and certain coastal positions.

In the meantime, Brother Abu Iyad said, the forthcoming visit to the Zionist entity by President Mitterrand will not have any positive results, particularly following the annexation of the Golan and since Israel is preparing to launch an aggression against southern Lebanon. In a statement to a French radio, Abu Iyad said that this visit may encourage Israel to continue its campaign against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in southern Lebanon. He added: We are opposed to this visit and believe that it will not serve France; nor will it benefit its relations with the Arab world.

HAWATIMAH COMMENTS ON PLANNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION

LD281150 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Feb (KUNA) -- A prominent Palestinian official, in an interview published here today, warned that Israel, with the help of the United States, will carry out a major "aggressive operation," striking at Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon and the Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa' valley. He said this operation could lead to an extensive "explosion" in the region.

Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, interviewed by the Kuwaiti AL-WATAN, says "the expected aggression will aim to strike at the Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon and also possibly at the Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa' so as to strip the Syrian forces of their air defense means in order to pave the way for a powerful blow against them and to drive them from Lebanon, opening the road to the possible success of the fascist Phalangist Lebanese plan to Zionize Lebanon."

He stresses that the coming operation, "coordinated between Washington and Tel Aviv" will "open up opportunities, various possibilities, including an all-embracing war on the Lebanese and Syrian fronts."

He explained that Israel is making preparations for this operation to be immediately implemented if current political plans in the region fail. He says: "The U.S. administration is encouraging Israel to prepare for a military aggression, which forms a ready alternative for immediate implementation in the event of the failure to extricate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak from the dilemmas he is facing, whether in Egyptian-Israeli or Egyptian-Arab relations."

He warns that "any Israeli aggression will not be a picnic" and stresses that Israel will pay "a very high price," especially as Palestinian and Syrian military capabilities "have appreciably developed through the backing and support of friends in socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union."

Hawatimah points out that the coming stage will witness a noticeable escalation in fedayeen armed action inside the occupied Arab territories. He says: "The revolution will continue its armed struggle inside the occupied homeland with greater activity and effectiveness."

Regarding the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, he says: "The Israeli decision comes in the course of completing the taming of the region after the Egypt of As-Sadat-Mubarak fell into the claws of the American-Israeli reactionary plan," which seeks among other things to "engulf the rights of the Palestinian peoples to self-determination and to unconditionally build an independent Palestinian state on their own national territory under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate representative."

He describes the decision of the Palestinian resistance to accept the cease-fire in southern Lebanon as "wise." He says this decision gave the resistance the opportunity "to reorganize its own forces and to strengthen its defensive capabilities and potential."

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER CHAIRS CABINET SESSION 28 FEB

GF281330 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah presided over an ordinary Cabinet session at Government House this morning.

Following the meeting Yusuf Ahmed ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said: The prime minister briefed the Cabinet at the beginning of today's meeting on the results of the official visits to Bahrain by YAR President 'Abdallah 'Ali Salih, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon Shafiq al-Wazzan and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Malaysia Dr Mohamad bin Mahathir and the official negotiations between the visiting delegations and senior officials in Bahrain. These talks aimed at developing and strengthening fraternal Arab and Islamic relations and at exchanging views on issues of mutual interest. The Cabinet expressed its understanding of the critical situation in the YAR and voiced its concern over the situation in Lebanon. The Cabinet blessed the amir's promise that Bahrain will endeavor with all its power to stand alongside Lebanon so that it can reestablish security and peace. The Cabinet also welcomed the visit of the Malaysian prime minister, which will strengthen the possibility of cooperation between Bahrain and this Islamic country in the Islamic, educational and economic fields.

The Cabinet then reviewed a memorandum presented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on the results of the fourth session of the ministerial council of the Arab GCC states ministers of labor and social affairs. The Cabinet approved the ministry's general policy toward labor and social affairs both on the regional and Arab levels which aims at deepening Islamic values and principles to develop individuals and equip them with these sound, perfect social concepts. The Cabinet also expressed satisfaction over the ministry's efforts to keep this and forthcoming conferences away from political currents and slogans that have no connection with labor affairs and social services.

The foreign affairs minister informed the Cabinet that the GCC foreign ministers ministerial council will hold its ordinary session in Riyadh next week.

INVESTIGATION OF SABOTAGE PLOT CONCLUDED

GF280648 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 28 Feb (WAKH) -- It was announced here today that the Bahraini Interior Ministry's General Prosecution Department has finished the investigation of the sabotage plot that was discovered in December. The Interior Ministry prosecutor general stated that is is now possible to refer the issue to the Supreme Court of Appeals at the Ministry of Justice within the next 48 hours.

In a statement published in today's AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, the prosecutor general said that investigation of this case was rather protracted due to the many defendants who, toward the end of the investigation, numbered 73 and also due to varying circumstances, ambiguities and events related to the case.

He added that the General Prosecution Department has accused the defendants of committing crimes that violate the state's internal and external security. These crimes consist of contacting and collaborating with a foreign state through one of its agents in order to carry out hostile activities against the state of Bahrain and its people. They are also accused of forming an illegal organization aimed at sabotaging public utilities and spreading terrorism and of possessing unauthorized arms, ammunition and explosives.

The General Prosecution Department has demanded that the defendants be executed in accordance with the articles of the prosecution law of 1976 and in accordance with the law of arms and ammunition issued as decree No 16 for 1976 and which are applicable to this kind of crime.

It is recalled that Bahrain's security apparatus discovered the sabotage plot in December. The plotters had planned to implement their plot during Bahrain's national day celebrations. The security apparatus thwarted the plot and the plotters were arrested before the plot could be implemented. Their arms depots were also discovered and seized.

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

GF020933 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH) -- The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, met here this morning with Ramadan Muhammad al-Rubi, Libyan ambassador to Bahrain.

WAKH has learned that the Libyan ambassador conveyed a written message to the Bahraini amir from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with bilateral relations, the Middle East issue and the threats the Arab nation is confronting.

AMIR RECEIVES KUWAITI DEFENSE MINISTER

GF260749 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0648 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) -- The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, who is currently visiting Manama. They reviewed their close bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf.

Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, and Musa Sulayman al-Musa, Kuwaiti ambassador to Bahrain, attended the meeting.

Minister Leaves for Home

GF261332 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1313 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) -- Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim left for home this afternoon at the conclusion of a private visit ot Bahrain that lasted for several days.

He was seen off on departure by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force.

KUWAITI CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS HEIR APPARENT

GF021023 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 2 Feb (WAKH) -- Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, met here today with Maj Gen 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim, Kuwaiti chief of staff. The meeting was attended by Brig Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force.

Maj Gen al-Ghanim arrived in Manama this morning on an official visit that will last several days.

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER PAYS 3-DAY VISIT

Received by Amir

GF271015 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH) -- Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah this morning received Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamed, who is currently visiting Manama.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah and Malaysian Ambassador to Bahrain Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid.

WAKH has learned that bilateral relations and the means of developing them were discussed during the meeting. The talks also included a review of the current situation in the Arab Gulf region; in addition to the Middle East question and a number of Islamic issues that are of mutual interest.

Talks Begin

GF271728 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Official Bahraini-Malaysian talks were held this afternoon at Al-Qadaybiyah Palace. The Bahraini side was led by Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and the Malaysian side by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed.

The Bahraini delegation consisted of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister, Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, development and industry minister and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, Shaykh Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, housing minister and head of the honorary mission; Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', director of the prime minister's office; and 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, director of the Political Department at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Malaysian delegation consisted of Mohamed Ghazali bin Shafie, foreign affairs minister; (Akhikan) Sri Zakaria bin Haji Mohamed, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Mohamed Khatib bin Abdul Hamid, Malaysian ambassador to Bahrain; (Akhikan) Sri Abdullah Saleh, national petroleum establishment director general; Datuk bin Abdul Rahman Yusof, Industrial Development authority direction; (Engo) Mohamed Anwar bin (Wak), the prime minister's private assistant; Dr Abdul Hamid bin Othman, director of the Islamic Education Department at the Education Ministry; and a number of members of the delegation accompanying the Malaysian prime minister.

WAKH has learned that during the talks, which lasted for more than 90 minutes, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in the political, economic and cultural fields. They also reviewed current issues in Southeast Asia, the Gulf region and the Middle East. Both sides expressed strong interest in bolstering relations within the framework of joint work among Islamic countries for more Islamic coordination to fulfill their hopes of being powerful in the political and other fields. WAKH has also learned that a joint communique will be issued at the conclusion of the Malaysian prime minister's visit to the country. The communique will include the issues discussed during the talks.

Foreign Ministers Meet

GF271933 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH -- Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met here today with Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ghazali bin Shafie, who is currently visiting Bahrain, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they completed the talks which Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad began earlier today and which focused on bilateral relations, current developments in Southeast Asia and Gulf and Arab issues of interest to both countries.

The Malaysian prime minister arrived in Manama earlier today on a 3-day official visit to Bahrain.

Prime Minister Departs

GF010902 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Manama, 1 Mar (WAKH) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed left Manama for Abu Dhabi this morning following a 3-day state visit to Bahrain. The visit was part of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

During this visit, the Malaysian prime minister met with Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Bahraini officials and held talks on bilateral relations and the means of bolstering them in the political, economic and cultural fields. The talks also dealt with current Gulf, Arab, Islamic and international issues and current developments in Southeast Asia.

The Malaysian prime minister was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Joint Statement Issued

GF011500 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Mar 82

["Text" of Bahraini-Malaysian joint statement issued on 1 March at the end of the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to Bahrain from 27 February to 1 March 1982]

[Text] At the invitation of Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, paid an official visit to Bahrain from 27 February to 1 March 1982. He was accompanied by a delegation that included Mohamed Ghazali bin Shafie, minister of foreign affairs, and other Malaysian officials.

Prime Minister Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah led the officials who received the distinguished guest on his arrival at the airport. The Malaysian prime minister was accorded a warm welcome as an expression of the developing friendly relations and the cultural and religious ties between the two countries.

During the visit the Malaysian prime minister had the honor of meeting His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and conveyed to his highness the greetings and good wishes of His Majesty Sultan Ahmad Shah ibni Sultan Abu Bakar, paramount ruler of Malaysia, and extended to his highness on behalf of his majesty the paramount ruler of Malaysia an official invitation to visit Malaysia. His highness the amir of Bahrain gratefully accepted the invitation, lauded the fraternal ties between the two countries and asked the Malaysian prime minister to convey his sincere good wishes and greetings to his majesty the paramount ruler of Malaysia.

Talks were held between thetwo sides in an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding. The Bahraini side was led by His Highness Kahlifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, while the Malaysian side was led by Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the situation in their areas, the current international situation and other issues of mutual interest.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two sides reviewed many spheres where the existing cooperation between them can be developed by practical means, particularly in the fields of trade, investment, religion, culture and education. The two sides agreed to strengthen such cooperation by adopting specific steps in this direction, including the exchange of contacts and visits by officials and businessmen of the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at their government's sincere desire to develop economic cooperation, including investment in the industrial sector, by embarking on joint government and private projects. The two sides also agreed on the need to develop trade relations and welcomed the exchange of trade missions.

On the cultural and educational levels, the two sides expressed the desire to exchange visits by youths and teachers and agreed on the need to adopt the necessary measures to provide training and teaching facilities to serve the common interests of the peoples of the two countries. In this regard the two sides agreed to take active steps to achieve the aims stated in the January 1975 scientific and cultural agreement between the two countries.

In order to strengthen the brotherly ties that exist between the two countries, the two sides agreed to form a committee that will meet annually to define bilateral cooperation in various spheres and to study the results of the present visit.

On reviewing the Middle East situation the two sides expressed their extreme anxiety at the deterioration of the situation as a result of Israel's continued aggression and expansion. The two sides affirmed that a just and lasting peace in the region cannot be achieved without the Palestinian people exercising their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the unconditional return of Jerusalem to Arab and Muslim sovereignty. The two sides also strongly denounced Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and emphasized that this action is a flagrant violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law. They called for the implementation of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly during its ninth extraordinary session on 5 February 1982.

The two sides also condemned Israeli practices in the occupied territories and Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

On reviewing the situation in Southeast Asia, the two sides expressed their great anxiety at developments in Indochina, particularly the situation in Kampuchea -- a situation that threatens peace and security in Southeast Asia where the continuation of the conflict will open the way to intervention by the superpowers.

In this regard the Bahraini side expressed its full understanding of and support for the stand of Malaysia and ASEAN in calling for a comprehensive political solution to the Kampuchean question in accordance with UN Resolution 366 and the declaration issued and resolution adopted by the international conference on the situation in Kampuchea.

The two sides believe that a political solution to the Kampuchean question that is compatible with the aforementioned principles is necessary to preserve Southeast Asia as an area of peace, freedom and neutrality and to safeguard the maintenance of peace and stability in the region without foreign interference.

Regarding the situation in Afghanistan the two sides affirmed their adherence to the resolutions of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement on the armed Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The two sides declared their solidarity with the Muslim world and the Nonaligned Movement in supporting the people of Afghanistan in their struggle to defend their creed and independence and their right to self-determination and to choose the regime they want. They emphasized that a peaceful situation can only be restored by the complete withdrawal of the armed Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The two sides delcared their full support for all efforts to find a political solution to the Afghan problem in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The two sides expressed their great anxiety at the continued conflict between Iran and Iraq and emphasized their full support for the peaceful efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization to find an early, just and lasting solution to the conflict.

On reviewing the present economic situation the two sides expressed their great anxiety and disappointment at the failure to achieve any tangible progress in economic activities within the framework of the North-South dialogue. The two sides stressed the need to intensify the efforts to safeguard their legitimate interests.

The Malyasian prime minsiter welcomed the GCC's establishment as a constructive factor in furthering economic and social cooperation among GCC countries. The two sides emphasized that the maintenance of security and stability in the Gulf region is the sole responsibility of the area countries without foreign interference.

The two sides expressed their great satisfaction with the increased ability of the Islamic Conference Organization to act as a forum for discussing and tackling all aspects of the problems of Muslims and Muslim countries and reaffirmed their full support for strengthening the Islamic Conference Organization as the voice of the Muslim world and the expression of its solidarity.

The Malaysian prime minister expressed his great admiration for the noticeable progress achieved by the state of Bahrain under the leadership of his highness the amir of Bahrain and his sound government.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the positive results of the visit and agreed to continue consultations and meetings on all levels with the aim of achieving greater cooperation between Malaysia and the state of Bahrain.

The prime minister of Malaysia extended an official invitation to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the state of Bahrian, who gratefully accepted it.

The prime minister of Malaysia expressed his profound thanks to his highness the amir, the Government of Bahrain and its friendly people for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him personally and to the delegation accompanying him during his visit.

GULF, PENINSULA AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONFER

GF011115 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0753 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Manama, 1 Mar (WAKH) -- The seventh conference of agriculture ministers from Gulf and Arabian Peninsula countries began in Manama this morning.

Habib al-Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture, opened the conference, which will last for 3 days. He said he hopes this conference will be successful in achieving the noble goals to which the region's countries aspire.

Mr al-Qasim stressed the necessity of developing the agricultural sector and urged Gulf and Arabian Peninsula countries to follow the example of countries that have used modern technology to develop the agricultural sector. He also urged them to endeavor to change their present agricultural situation, which is marked by problems and challenges, through joint efforts. If this is done, the agricultural sector will become a working example of economic integration.

Sa'id Muhammad ar-Raqbani, UAE minister of agriculture and fisheries and chairman of the sixth Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agriculture ministers conference, made a speech on behalf of the member countries at the opening session. He said: The challenges we are facing today require us to persist in our march, make decisions and carry them out. He added: International events have proved our fear that food is no longer subject to the laws of supply and demand. It is bound by policies adopted by food producing countries. We daily feel our independence and political will depend upon our ability to provide as much food as possible.

Ar-Raqbani stressed that the application of modern, scientific techniques to agriculture and irrigation and the use of water rationing devices would help provide large quantities of water for agricultural purposes.

In a speech he made after being elected chairman of the conference, the Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture said: The conference agenda includes some very important issues that require careful attention from everyone so that practical decisions can be made. When carried out, such decisions will benefit everyone.

KUWAIT

KUNA CHAIRMAN URGES EGYPT: 'RETURN TO ARAB FOLD'

LD011116 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Mar (KUNA) -- The chairman and director general of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, Bargis Hamud al-Bargis, Monday urged Egypt to return to the Arab fold.

In a statement published by AL-ANBA' newspaper, Al-Bargis said this return "is the only solution for both Egypt and the Arabs because with the Arabs, Egypt becomes stronger and with Egypt the Arabs become stronger."

Commenting on a statement by the Israeli Cabinet that the idea of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposed visit to Israel would be abandoned if Mubarak's itinerary did not include Jerusalem, Al-Bargis said "this is Egypt's chance and that of Husni Mubarak in particular to return to the Arabs."

Al-Bargis asked: "If Mr. Mubarak does not seize this chance, what insults worse than this one would be awaiting Egypt at the international level?"

KUNA's chairman added that the "myth of Egypt's collapsed economy which late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat used as a pretext to drag Egypt to the Camp David accords had proved its fallacy since the total Western funds invested in Egypt so far have not exceeded 50 million dollars, whereas one single Arab investor could spend that sum there."

He added that when Egypt returns, the Arabs will become again a strong political bloc which will be taken into account, not only by the United States which continues to be hostile to them, but also by Europe which is chained and which cannot give its opinion freely on Arab issues because of American arrogance and hegemony."

OFFICIAL DENIES YAR REQUESTED GCC MEMBERSHIP

GF251909 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 24 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[Exclusive to AL-YAWM]

[Excerpt] Kuwait -- Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and information, stated to AL-YAWM that the Kuwaiti press report that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had requested GCC membership for his country is completely untrue. The Kuwaiti minister explained that the YAR had asked the GCC states to understand its problems.

THIRD SATELLITE GROUND STATION OPENED 27 FEB

GF020538 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 27 -- Kuwait today inaugurated its third satellite ground station, an official press release by the Ministry of Communications said. Like its two predecessors, the new 'earth station' is located in Umm Al A'ish, close to the border with Iraq.

Minister of Communications 'Isa Muhammad al-Masidi personally declared the station operational today in the presence of Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Ghunaym and other senior officials.

The new ground communications system is designed to cope with increasing demands on international communications between Kuwait and rest of the world, it is being stressed. All the ground stations are linked to 9 network of satellites operated by Intelasat (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization) founded in 1964. Kuwait had joined that organization in 1966.

The third station has been designed and built by Nippon Electric of Japan at a cost of KD2.7 million. Its initial capacity is 324 channels and its antenna is pointed to the Indian Ocean region satellite serving the countries of the region.

Ground stations dotted around the world serve as reflectors communicating signals of information to the orbiting satellites. Telephone calls, radio and TV broadcasts and other information can be conveyed by the satellite network. From the satellite, any information can again be re-transmitted to the ground stations.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS INTERVIEWED ON THREATS TO COUNTRY

PM261631 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 26 Feb 82 p 6

[Denis Warner dispatch: "Anglo-ANZAC Force for Sinai Is Welcomed by Oman"]

[Excerpts] Muscat -- Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the ruler of Oman, said yesterday he welcomed British, Australian and New Zealand involvement in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The decision to contribute to the force would not damage relations with Arab countries.

Any contribution towards peace-keeping was healthy, he said.

Earlier Yusuf 'Alawi, foreign minister, said that there would be no opposition either from other members of six -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- even though they were not likely to say so publicly.

The Sinai was a very good example of how territory could be returned to peaceful means, the sultan said. The force was called upon only when the United Nations refused to assist.

The United Nations was ready to help in the Lebanon, Cyprus and elsewhere but was not prepared to contribute to this peaceful solution, so Egypt called on others.

In a wide-ranging interview the sultan said there were two serious threats. First the local threat that came from South Yemen with the Cuban and European proxies. Then there was the "very serious" threat posed by the Russians in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan is not a happy situation for us all," he said. "The Russians are not there just to support Babrak Karmal but for their own expansionist goal".

We did not think that we were likely to see the Russian drive to the Indian Ocean today or tomorrow, but the threat was there. "We small nations can't do much about it," he added.

"What we have to be concerned with is to be strong enough to repulse the first wave, to be able to stand up until friends can help. We don't want people to come and fight for us unless we can't cope."

Oman had learned from experience that it could not guarantee its development and prosperity without being strong enough to guard it.

Oman had to have strong armed forces and a sizeable police force. The Omani people understood that fully. They were soldiers by nature and they respected strength.

"At the same time," The Sultan said, "we have been able to develop in other fields. If it were not for the world situation Oman would be able to devote more to the civil budget and less to the military but unhappily in existing circumstances it cannot do that."

DEFENSE POSTS SET UP ON S. YEMEN BORDER

PM011439 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Mar 82 p 4

[Denis Warner dispatch: "Wary Oman Boosts Border Defences"]

[Text] Sarfait, on Oman-South Yemen border -- Oman authorities have cleared a 19-mile band of border territory of civilians and have set up a chain of border posts to meet any threat from Russian-backed South Yemen.

With three brigades of South Yemen infantry, backed up by 50 or 60 tanks deployed in the general region of the Oman border, and nine other brigades in reserve positions, the Oman's professed to see a military threat that could be activated at any time the Soviet Union gave the word.

It is difficult to believe that a serious military threat could develop in the coastal area. The mammoth plateau rises 4,000 ft sheer from the sea and is riven by wadis that drop from knife-edge ridges for thousands of feet.

With extraordinary engineering skill the Omanis have build a blacktop road linking many defence posts.

Any serious incursion, however, would be out of the question here. The scenery is thrilling, but the terrain would daunt even an aggressor with overwhelming strength. It could not be used by armoured vehicles.

To the north there is the desert; and at a military briefing in the newly built coastal town of Salah I was told that it was in the desert area that most of the small-scale incidents and incursions over the past two years had occurred.

It is difficult to imagine a hostile force moving successfully through the desert. Since South Yemen is said to have between 430 and 450 Soviet T54 and T55 tanks, 120 MiG 17, 19, 21 and 23 fighters, and a squadron of 24 assault helicopters, however, it cannot be entirely discounted.

Although the Omanis tend to talk in terms of a conventional military threat across the border, what probably worries them more than anything else is a renewed effort by South Yemen to stir up the small remnants of the Dhofar rebellion, which caused such concern in the mid-1970's.

QATAR

YAR PRESIDENT CONCLUDES 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

Statement to QNA

GF271019 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Doha, 28 Feb (QNA) -- YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed hope that Arab differences will be resolved or eliminated and that joint responsibility will become the aspiration of everyone in order prevent threats to the Arabs. He also expressed hope that all Arab efforts will result in the achievement of the goal sought by the Arab nation, which is an integrated and inseparable whole.

In a statement to QNA, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed his country's support for Arab solidarity and affirmed that his country will spare no effort for this cause. He indicated that the YAR proposal submitted to the Arab summit conference in Amman, which called for the formation of a committee to cleanse the Arab atmosphere, restore severed relations and halt all press camapigns and which urged the formation of a committee to resolve disputes, had been positively welcomed by Arab public opinion. He said his current tour of a number of Arab states has received profound understanding from the leaders of the states he visited. He said all these efforts help to clear the Arab atmosphere.

He explained that his country's efforts to promote solidarity must continue until its fruits are harvested. He added: "Solidarity is a fundamental factor in coordinating the Arab stand in order to prevent the continuation of the Camp David agreements. These agreements are still in the arena although previous experience has proved that they led to a dead end. This dead end encouraged Israel to bargain and exert pressure to obliterate the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and pursue aggressive colonization policies in accordance with these bargains and pressures."

Asked about the Israeli enemy's escalation of its aggression against the Arab nation, its annexation of the Golan Heights and a possible intention to annex southern Lebanon, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that these possibilities are relevant. Everyone talks about them. However, he added, Arab action will suffice to confront these possibilities and change the current atmosphere. This, he explained, requires the bolstering of Arab solidarity and the uniting of all efforts so that Arab solidarity becomes a reality.

Commenting on the role of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, the YAR president expressed his belief that the task of these forces and their cooperation with the Lebanese and the Palestinians come within the framework of preserving Lebanon's integrity and helping it overcome its ordeal and confront possible Israeli aggression. This, he added, will help reorganize Arab priorities.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih affirmed his country's support for the Palestinian question. He indicated that developments in this revolution are considered a real field of experimentation for the joint Arab destiny. He added that the door is open for YAR volunteers. YAR volunteers participate with their Palestinian brothers in the profound belief that Arab questions are inseparable.

Commenting on the difficulties facing unity between the two Yemens, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said there would be no difficulties if intentions were sincere. He added that his country is searching for objective and material factors that may help reinforce the bases of unity between the two Yemens. However, he attributed the real difficulties to achieving unity to fragmentation factors that were left by the British occupation and hegemony by the imams.

Leaves for Home

GF270927 Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Doha, 28 Feb (QNA) -- YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Doha for home this morning after concluding his 2-day visit to Qatar. He was seen off at the airport by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and senior Qatari officials.

Qatar was the last stage in Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's tour of seven Arab states that included Oman, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq and Qatar.

Press Statement Issued

GF281314 Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Doha, 28 Feb (QNA) -- A press statement issued in Doha today on YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Qatar announced that the Qatari and YAR views expressed during the talks were in agreement on all the Arab issues discussed, foremost of which was the Palestinian question.

The statement says that Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed that the current circumstances the Arab nation is passing through make it incumbent on us to exert efforts and adopt necessary steps to achieve Arab solidarity, which is the only way to confront anything aimed at undermining any part of our great homeland, and to preserve the secuirty in the entire Arab region and regain the usurped Arab territory and rights.

The following is the text of the press statement issued by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs:

At the invitation of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih paid a visit to Qatar from 27 to 28 February 1982. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the delegation accompanying him were given a warm reception which expressed the profundity of fraternal ties and close relations between Qatar and the YAR.

The leaders of the two states held official talks attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and a number of senior officials from both countries. The talks focused on the issues that are of mutual interest, particularly those pertaining to the means of eliminating the gap in Arab ranks and restoring Arab solidarity. They also discussed reinforcing joint Arab action to confront the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation, foremost of which is the Zionist threat.

The talks also included a discussion of the strong bilateral relations and the means of bolstering and reinforcing those aspects which are mutually beneficial.

The views of the two leaders were in complete agreement on all the Arab issues discussed, foremost of which was the Palestinian question, which is the essence of all issues. The two leaders stressed that the current circumstances the Arab nation is passing through make it incumbent on all of us to exert efforts and adopt necessary steps to achieve Arab solidarity, which is the only way to confront anything aimed at undermining any part of our great homeland, and to preserve security in the entire Arab region and regain the Arab territory and rights.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the positive result of this visit.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih invited the amir to visit the YAR and the amir accepted the invitation, thanked the president and promised to make the visit at the appropriate time.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES JORDANIAN COMMANDER

GF011957 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, received Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation at his office in Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1600 today. During the meeting, the two officials reviewed bilateral relations and the means to bolster and develop them in all fields, especially in the military field.

The meeting was attended by Brig Gen Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, deputy commander in chief; Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani, assistant deputy commander in chief; 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah al-'Atiyah, head of the office of the heir apparent and defense minister; and Maj Gen Muhammad Mahmud.

Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir arrived in Doha earlier today on a 3-day visit to Qatar.

AMIR, HEIR APPARENT RECEIVE UK'S HURD 1 MAR

GF011331 Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Doha, 1 Mar (QNA) -- Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received Douglas Hurd, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and Stephen Day, the British ambassador in Doha.

QNA has learned that discussions during the meeting focused on bilateral relations and the means to develop and reinforce them in all fields in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest, particularly the current situation in the region, the Middle East question and the general international situation.

Later today, the Qatari heir apparent and defense minister met with the British minister and continued discussions with him in the presence of the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs and the British ambassador in Doha.

The British minister stated after the meeting he held with the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs that they discussed the current world situation, developments in the Middle East and Gulf regions and issues of mutual interest.

Douglas Hurd arrived in Doha from Muscat yesterday evening amid his current tour of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

GF272003 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and his delegation arrived in Jidda today on an official visit to the kingdom that will last for several days.

He was received at the airport by Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, Mecca deputy Amir; Shaykh 'Abd Ar-Rahman As-Sidiri, Jidda commissioner; Lt Gen Mansur ash-Shu'aybi, commander of the Western Region; 'Abd al-'Aziz Jukhdar, chief of Jidda royal protocol; Kacem Bousnina, Tunisian ambassador to the kingdom; Maj Gen Muhammad Kandal, Mecca assistant police commander; and a number of officials.

Received by Khalid

GF281949 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his palace at 1900 today Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and Cabinet member and the accompanying delegation.

Mr Mzali described Saudi-Tunisian relations as cooperation. He said that during his visit he will sign an economic agreement. The delegation accompanying him will hold contacts with private and public sectors in the kingdom.

Referring to the Arab peace plan which the kingdom has proposed, the Tunisian prime minister said: This plan will give the world an alternative to Camp David, which is a fiasco. He expressed the hope that Arab leaders will reach a final formula for this plan during the upcoming Fes summit.

Aid Agreement Concluded

LD010022 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA) -- Saudi Arabia and Tunisia concluded an agreement here tonight for financing a number of development projects in the North African Arab country by the Saudi fund for development.

According to the accord, the fund will grant Tunisia SR [Saudi rials] 350 million for the finance of irrigation, underground water exploitation fisheries and railway projects in the framework of current Tunisian five-year development plan.

The agreement was signed by finance and national economy minister and chairman of the fund, Shaykh Muhammad Aba Al-Khayl, and Tunisian ?Planning and Finance Minister Mansour Moalla.

After the signing ceremony Aba al-Khayl welcomed the visit of his Tunisian counterpart to the kingdom and said the visits exchanged between the officials of the two nations are a great factor in existing strong ties.

The accord is a good chance for the Saudi fund to contribute to Tunisia development projects, Aba al-Khayl added.

Moalla appreciated the (?strong cooperation) between the two countries and praised the contribution by the Saudi fund in implementing the Tunisian development ventures.

He described the current Saudi-Tunisian cooperation as a model to be followed by other states in all spheres.

Talks Begin

LD011130 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0938 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA -- The Saudi-Tunisian talks started this morning under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; and His Excellency Mohamad Mzali, Tunisian prime minister, who is currently visiting the kingdom.

Present at the talks from the Saudi side were: His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity; Shaykh Muhammad 'Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers and the accompanying ministers; Shaykh 'abd ar-Rahman al'-Umran, the kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia; and from the Tunisian side by Mansour Moalla, minister of planning and finance; Mahmoud Mestiri, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Kacem Bousnina, Tunisian ambassador to the kingdom; Mohamed Amamu, ambassador director of the Arab Affairs Section at the Foreign Ministry; Mustafa Munif, chief of the prime minister's office; Mohamed Hashim, councellor at the prime minister's office; and Zaynyl'abidin Mestiri, director general of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs, told SPA that there has been a prevailing fraternal and cordial atmosphere at the Saudi-Tunisian talks, which focus[ed] on all aspects of relations between the two fraternal countries. He added that the c[on]sultations in the Arab arena and issues of concern to the Arab nation, especially our [Arab] cause, the Palestinian cause, and also several international issues of mutual interest, were discussed.

Press Conference Held

LD012056 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA) -- Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has reaffirmed that today's Saudi-Tunisian talks were fruitful and beneficial. In an address made at the beginning of a press conference he held this afternoon at the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh, Mohamed Mzali said that these talks led to positive results. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Saudi Government for the warm welcome he received during this visit. He added that he had exchanged views with Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and with other senior officials in the kingdom about Arab issues and the Arab situation. He stressed the necessity of bringing Arab views closer together and of concentrating efforts on the Arabs' number one issue -- the Palestinian question.

After Mohamed Mzali concluded his statement he answered journalists' questions.

In reply to a question about the most important topics dealt with during the visit, he said they dealt with two main issues. The first issue was the Middle East question, rallying and uniting Arab ranks and preparations for the Fes summit in order to produce one stand and one plan by which we can confuse our enemy and distinguish friend and foe. The second issue was bilateral cooperation.

Replying to a question about the Fes conference and the Arab peace plan proposed by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Tunisian prime minister said that this plan has become an Arab plan.

He pointed out that the world has been asking: What do the Arabs want? This plan is considered a reply to that question. He called on the Arab leaders to agree to this plan or to amend it -- because it is subject to amendments -- or propose an alternative plan. He explained that Tunisia is playing a positive role in reconciling Arab view.

Asked about the future of cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, Mzali said that the agreement signed between the finance ministers of the two countries represent Saudi Arabia's participation in financing Tunisian projects. He made it clear that the extent of this participation is five times that of past years. This indicates a new [word indistinct] directed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his royal highness the crown prince and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to the ministers about this matter in addition to the great steps taken for cooperation in various spheres.

Regarding the convening of the Fes Arab summit, Mzali said it is necessary to intensify contacts in order to provide the minimum conditions needed for the resumption of the summit. Regarding the freezing of the European initiative, Mzali explained that not much could be expected from this initiative, nor should it be burdened with more than it is capable of achieving.

He stressed the need for the Arabs to stand united in one rank in order to win the support of other states, to isolate the Zionist enemy diplomatically and politically and to besiege it internationally and in the propaganda field. He stated that the real solution lies in political, military and diplomatic strength so that victory can be won and the enemy isolated.

Asked whether his talks in the kingdom touched on the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations, Mzali said that subject was not discussed. Regarding the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, he said it was difficult to answer that question.

Regarding the visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to occupied Palestine and Begin's announcement that he would not welcome him except in Jerusalem, Mzali said that was not surprising coming from Begin.

Regarding the U.S. position on the Israeli enemy's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, Mohamed Mzali made it clear that the Zionist lobby has influence in the United States and many other countries, and as Arabs we need to strive to publicize our cause in the world. Mzali asked what we as Arabs have done in the fields of information, civilization, culture and politics to acquaint the American people with our cause. He said: We find it warrants criticism. He added: We have a cause [word indistinct] to face up to the Zionist pressure on Western states and continue our friendship with people. He called on the Arabs to show world opinion our cause, especially (?the West and the United States), in order to acquaint them with this just human cause, the Palestinian question. He said we must work informationally, politically and culturally because we as Muslims have for centuries been suffering mentally from the Crusades. He called for the intensification of Arab effort in all spheres to clarify our cause to the world.

Asked about the establishment of the GCC, Mzali expressed his congratulations, saying the Arab Maghreb should have achieved such unity. However, our brothers in the Gulf beat us to it [words indistinct].

Asked about the Iraqi-Iranian war, Mzali said this war is an example of the irresponsibility and adolescence of some people. He made it clear Iraq is still calling for peace but faces rejection, which is a tragedy.

He also replied to a question about Tunisia's role and good offices in eliminating differences between Algeria and Morocco. He said Tunisia is continuing its efforts in this regard.

Replying to a question about the outcome of the Tunisian-Libyan reconciliation, Mzali said Tunisia beleves in maintaining contact. He pointed out that after the events in Qafsah, relations were tense and deteriorating, but are better now. The two sides have agreed to forget the past and to open a new page now that Libya has admitted that immediate merger type unity is sheer fantasy and sheer mirage and that real unity is built, consolidated and strengthened by studied, orderly action based on the interwoven nature of interests and mutual trust.

He said the question of the continental shelf is finished since the International Court of Justice has ruled on the issue. He also said agreement was reached on settling the question of Tunisian workers in Libya. He expressed the hope that liaison and rapprochement between the two countries will take place.

Mzali said Tunisia's attitude toward the Western Sahara issue is clear: Tunisia welcomes the referendum under OAU supervision. If need be, this referendum can take place under UN supervision so that the inhabitants of Western Sahara may determine their own fate. He added that his country is working to reconcile the view of the states concerned, since it supports peace, the clearing of the atmosphere and the purification of souls.

Leaves for Qatar

LD020820 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 2 Mar (SPA) -- Tunisia Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali this morning left Al-Madinah for Qatar after a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

UAE

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

GF251036 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 24 Feb (WAKH) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has affirmed that he will continue his current tour despite the Kuwaiti plane hijacking incident at Beirut Airport today.

The Leganese prime minister said the goal of his current tour is to present Arab officials with the facts about the Zionist threat that is knocking on our door. This threat, he added, forces them to sound the bells of danger, since defending southern Lebanon is a joint Arab responsibility.

He added that his talks in Kuwait and the UAE have been useful. He said he felt that officials in both countries appreciate the critical situation and the real dangers Lebanon is being subjected to. He said he felt their readiness to respond to every request and to enhance the joint Arab action in order to eliminate the dangers that are faced every day.

Mr al-Wazzan defended the Cairo agreement, which governs the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He said it would be better to preserve the agreement and reorganize and amend relations in accordance with the new circumstances.

Commenting on this issue, the Lebanese prime minister said: The Palestinian question is our question in Lebanon, and it is our question as Arabs. The presence of the Palestinians in our land was imposed by circumstances beyond their will or our will.

He also indicated that the regime in Lebanon does not operate under normal circumstances. He explained that it suffers from continuous difficulties that are placed before it either intentionally or due to continuing international and local conspiracies.

He regretted that national accord has not been achieved so far and called on all parties, particularly those who carry arms and constitute an active group in the Lebanese arena, to push the accord process in a positive direction.

DAILY: HABIB TO CONSOLIDATE ISRAEL'S POSITION

GF260830 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAM) -- In its editorial today, AL-ITTIHAD asks about the U.S. envoy's new mission to the Middle East and wonders what he is bringing with him this time.

The paper says Philip Habib is returning to a region that is more tense than when he first began his mission in April 1981. It adds that the only changes that have occurred in the situation are further Israeli threats, whose scope has widened to include southern Lebanon and beyond.

AL-ITTIHAD adds: "Following Habib's first mission, Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor and violated the airspace of more than one Arab country. It is now raising a hue and cry over the possibility of the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan and is threatening action against Egypt if it introduces weapons in the Sinai. It is also threatening to launch preemptive strikes against the Arabs to prevent Arab superiority over it.

AL-ITTIHAD says that this means Israel wants to expand its hegemony over the entire region and is not content with its hegemony over southern Lebanon. Its objectives go further than the missiles Syria installed in Al-Biga' and which Israel has threatened to bomb.

AL-ITTIHAD wonders what Habib is bringing with him this time and says that in July 1981 he brought about a cease-fire between the Palestinians and the Israelis, a cease-fire that Israel is exploiting. Israel claims the cease-fire applies to all Palestinian resistance operations in the occupied territories and anywhere in the world.

In conclusion, AL-ITTIHAD says: "By sending Habib this time, the United States is seeking to consolidate the Israeli concept of the cease-fire. The United States is trying to expand the field of UNIFIL's operation in southern Lebanon to the north, where the Palestinian forces are situated. At the same time, it is closing its ears to Lebanon's request to expand the field of UNIFIL's operation to the international border."

BRIEFS

AID TO PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY -- AL-BAYAN has been informed that the financial aid approved by the Council of Ministers for the Palestinian Bi'r Zayt University will total approximately $1 million for the next 5 years. [Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Feb 82 p 1 GF]

AUTONOMY COMMITTEE CONDUCTS PROCEDURAL SESSION

NC012000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA) -- Meetings of the tripartite technical committee concerned with the autonomy negotiations began at Mena House Hotel this evening. The Egyptian side was headed by Ambassador Tahir Shash, the U.S. side by Ambassador Cluverius, and the Israeli side by Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Kuversky. The meetings are a new attempt to resolve the problems obstructing the preparation of a draft plan on autonomy powers and jurisdictions.

After the 45-minute meeting, Ambassador Shash said the meeting was a preliminary procedural session during which the agenda and the topics to be discussed at the meetings were approved. The most important of these are those pertaining to security arrangements as well as arrangements for elections, including elections to be held in Jerusalem, and pending matters from previous meetings, such as the rule of the autonomy authoritiy, including the number of members and the powers that the Palestinian authority will assume.

The committee will resume its activities at 1000 tomorrow.

Today's meeting was also attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, who will lead the Egyptian side when Ambassador Tahir Shash goes to Vienna to assume his new post as Egyptian ambassador to Austria.

TEL AVIV TO HOST NEXT ROUND OF WITHDRAWAL TALKS

NC012013 Cairo MENA in English 1920 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA) -- The higher committee on the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai will hold the fourth session in Tel Aviv on March 9 to 12 under Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The committee will discuss the executive measures of the final Israel withdrawal, the restoration of Egypt's international border in accordance with the 1906 agreement, and a number of normalization issues between the two countries.

'ALI CONVEYS MUBARAK MESSAGE TO EUROPEAN ENVOYS

UK, FRG, FRENCH ENVOYS

NC281554 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the British, French and FRG Ambassadors in Cairo and conveyed oral messages from President Husni Mubarak to their heads of state within the framework of consultations between Egypt and these countries over the situation in the Middle East and the march toward peace.

Italian, Austrian Envoys

NC282000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali this evening met with Austrian Ambassador in Cairo Christoph Cornaro and Italian Ambassador in Cairo Gian Luigi Milesi Ferretti.

'Ali conveyed oral and personal messages from President Husni Mubarak to the Austrian chancellor and the Italian president relevant to the Middle East question and the various developments in the march toward peace within the framework of consultations between Egypt and these countries.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE BACKS MUBARAK'S MIDEAST STAND

NC011953 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The committee charged with the reply to the government's statement, which the prime minister delivered to the People's Assembly on 20 February, has emphasized the need for continuing the dialogue with the Palestinians. It pointed out that peace depends on the preservation of the Palestinian people's rights.

During debate today, the committee affirmed that Egypt's stand on peace is firm both before and after the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The committee supported President Husni Mubarak's step of welcoming any Arab state unconditionally in order to restore Arab solidarity to its normal condition. The committee called on the government to frankly reveal the economic facts when preparing the comprehensive economic plan.

The committee also debated the various aspects of the government's statement on dealing with economic problems. It emphasized the need for setting priorities for popular development and assessing the achievements accomplished so far in this regard. The committee is scheduled to complete debate tomorrow evening.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON HABIB VISIT TO MIDEAST

NC272222 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH hopes that the visit of U.S. envoy Philip Habib to the area will continue and that he and President Reagan's administration will realize who is responsible for the instability in the area.

In a commentary to be published tomorrow, the paper affirms that Habib's visit comes as an expression of renewed fears and increasing tension in the area, particularly following the recent Israeli measures and statements threatening to explode the fragile situation in southern Lebanon.

The paper cites several examples of the Israeli measures and threats and says that these include threats by Israeli Ambassador in Washington Moshe Arens to deal a military blow against the Palestinians in southern Lebanon and threats by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to destroy the villages inhabited by Palestinian citizens in answer to any fedayeen operation.

The paper notes that these measures also include the Israeli forces seige of four Syrian villages in the occupied Golan to force their inhabitants to end their general strike in protest against the annexation of their villages to Israel, and the continued campaigns of detaining Palestinians in the West Bank.

RADIO COMMENTARY DENIES LEBANESE WAR INEVITABLE

NC281510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Bahyi Muhyi ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary]

[Text] For some time now, there has been increasing talk about the possibility of Israel launching a large-scale military operation against south Lebanon. These political speculations reached a climax recently -- so much so that the French External Relations Ministry inform its ambassador in Washington that Israel is preparing to launch an attack on south Lebanon. In Washington, Israeli Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens has announced that his country will be compelled to intervene militarily in Lebanon if the Palestinians continue to arm themselves. The U.S. State Department spokesman has hastened to emphasize the U.S. administration's opposition to violence as a means for settling political problems, whatever they may be, because violence only breeds violence and the settlement of the Middle East issues cannot be settled by force.

Immediately afterward, Philip Habib flew to the region and met with President Sarkis and his senior aides. Naturally, we are aware Philip Habib does not set foot in the area unless the Lebanese crisis is about to explode. The perplexing thing is that political observers have been confining all their speculations only to the date of the invasion, as if the invasion is a foregone conclusion. The seriousness of such a state of affairs is that it creates an impression within world public opinion that invasion is imperative and necessary. Thus, the masses will be psychologically prepared to receive the news of the invasion, when it takes place without apprehension or surprise.

The justification Israel is giving for such a military operation is that the Palestinian side is reinforcing its military presence in south Lebanon in a manner that threatens the cease-fire agreement concluded last summer. There is no doubt that the effects such a military operation will have will be greater than all the expectations of these observers who do not cease setting dates for the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon.

We would like to explain first of all that the continuing insistence that the invasion of south Lebanon is approaching is completely inconsistent with the talk about comprehensive peace, especially when the cause of peace has become a tangible reality. Now that Egypt and Israel have signed the Camp David accords that defined a general framework for peace in the Middle East, this commitment to comprehensive peace makes it incumbent upon eveybody to prepare the best means to rescue Lebanon from its tragedy instead of adding new elements of tension to the raging internal conflict.

The other point is tht the leaking of information by citing circles close to the Israeli Government about its intention to liquidate the Palestinian presence in south Lebanon only tends to kill all hopes of possible Palestinian participation in the talks on full autonomy, this at a time when duty requires the Israeli side to act diligently and to build bridges of trust between it and all the neighboring Arab states.

The third point is that the oft-repeated talk about the invasion of south Lebanon puts the U.S. side in south Lebanon in an extremely difficult situation, especially since the U.S. administration had recently declared more than once its absolute commitment to Israel's security and to the need of maintaining military balance in the area. Therefore, we say this tends to give the impression that Washington blesses such an invasion or is prepared to turn a blind eye in the interest of Israel. Such a situation will destroy the strong and developing relations between Washington and some Arab captals -- a matter which is not in the interest of peace.

In view of all this, we want those who are talking about the approching date of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon to keep calm nerves and to stop beating the drums of war because the region is dealing with explosive issues and tense nerves. Therefore, the region needs advocates of peace and not kindlers of fire.

MINISTER GHALI STATES OAU SPLIT 'SERIOUS'

NC011728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Addis Ababa this afternoon after heading the Egyptian delegation to the OAU foreign ministers conference.

On arrival, Dr Ghali said that the conference is regarded as one of the most serious conferences ever held in the history of the OAU because it has led to the division of the African continent into two groups: A group that supports the existence of the Saharan Republic and its accession to the OAU and a group which believes that the existence of this republic is illegal.

Dr Ghali said that although Egypt has not recognized the Saharan Republic, it, however, did not withdraw from the conference so that it will be able to play a conciliatory role for the sake of protecting African unity and the OAU.

Dr Ghali said that, during his stopover at Khartoum airport en route to Cairo, he met with Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani [Mubarak] and discussed the coordination of Egyptian and Sudanese diplomatic action and assessed what had taken place at the Addis Ababa conference. He said that there is a complete identity of views between Sudan and Egypt in this respect.

Dr Ghali left Cairo on 20 February for Addis Ababa to participate in the African ministerial conference which has concluded its meetings. He also held a conference of the Egyptian ambassadors to the Nile Basin states.

POLICY REVERSED ON BUYING USSR, GDR NEWSPRINT

NC012144 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The Egyptian Government, in a reversal of policy, today decided to buy 1,500 tons of newsprint from the Soviet Union and East Germany.

Newsprint imports from Eastern Europe had been frozen by Egypt because of the chill that occurred last year in Cairo-Moscow relations.

An Egyptian delegation will leave for the Soviet Union and East Germany to conclude the newsprint deal, under the trade cooperation protocol, officials said.

AFP REPORTS PLANS TO CHARGE 2,170 IN COUP PLOT

NC282102 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (AFP) -- The Egyptian public prosecutor plans to charge 2,170 persons with attempting to forcefully establish an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Egypt the government weekly MAY reported in its current edition.

According to the weekly, the charges will name 170 leaders and 2,000 activists of an organization which allegedly tried to overthrow the Egyptian regime by force.

The charges will be made public "in the coming days," MAY said.

MORE INDICTMENTS EXPECTED IN ASSEMBLY CASE

NC270944 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) -- AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports today that the public prosecutor's office is investigating a number of persons whose names have been mentioned in the case of People's Assembly Member Rashad 'Uthmin, on whom custodianship has been imposed after being indicted for illegally accumulating vast wealth over a period of 20 years when, in fact, he began his life as a porter in the Port of Alexandria.

The paper says that investigations have been completed with former Alexandria Governor Dr Na'im Abu Talib about his participation in the establishment of the Alexandria International Commercial Bank in his children's name during his tenure as governor, about his acquisition of a number of apartments for the members of his family, and about his responsibility to safeguard the state's land in Alexandria against transgression.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM adds that former Ministers Dr 'Abd ar-Raziq 'Abd al-Majid and Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir will be summoned in the second phase of the investigations. A number of other officials whose names have been mentioned in the case will also be summoned before a decision is made in the case.

MUBARAK TO MEET NDP CAUCUS FOR POLICY REVIEW

NC232154 Cairo MENA in arabic 2117 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) -- MENA has learned that the meetings which President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will hold with the National Democratic Party parliamentary body on 6 March will deal briefly with the situation in general since the last meeting his excellency held with the parliamentary body last month.

MENA has also learned that the meeting will be mostly devoted to the queries and questions of the members of the parliamentary body, and no specific subject is put forward for discussion with the members of the parliamentary body.

It is known that President Husni Mubarak had decided to hold a monthly meeting with the members of the National Democratic Party parliamentary body in both the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

AL-BAZ STATEMENT ON NDP BUREAU MEETING

NC281648 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] The National Democratic Party [NDP] Political Bureau held a meeting today under the chairmanship of President Husni Mubarak.

Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz said the NDP Political Bureau discussed matters related to the party and its activities during the coming period and a review was made of the general framework of foreign policy. He added that President Mubarak presented the results of his visit to Oman and his talks with Sultan Qabus. The Political Bureau also reviewed African affairs in light of the OAU ministerial council meeting in Addis Ababa. It also reviewed the Saharan issue between Morocco and the Polisario.

He said that the Egyptian delegation to the OAU ministerial conference expressed its reservations during the session, from which 19 delegations had withdrawn, because of lack of legal forum when the Saharan issue was being discussed. He said that Egypt will send messages to the leaders of the [African] states later.

With regard to the message which President Mubarak sent to President Reagan, Al-Baz said that the message comes within the framework of the continuing consultations between Egypt and the United States and in continuation of the talks which President Mubarak had with President Reagan during Mubarak's visit to the United States.

'IZZAT IBRAHIM ADDRESSES GROUP OF 77 MEETING

JN011847 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA) -- Vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) 'Izzat Ibrahim, Monday inaugurated the meeting of experts of the Group of 77 held under the motto "for more cooperation among the Third World countries.

The experts will discuss an Iraqi working paper on "the effects of inflation exported to developing countries and proposed measures to deal with those effects" and to adopt the resolutions and the special report of Baghdad meeting of the Group of 77. Mr Ibrahim expressed hope that the meeting will result in consolidating the ranks and unity of the group's countries to face the stubborn attitudes of the international imperialism towards the search for a just world economic order.

RCC vice-chairman said some industrialised countries, led by the United States of America, were endeavoring to rescind UN General Assembly's Resolution No 34/138 calling for comprehensive world negotiations within the UN framework concerning the major economic fields, on food, raw materials, development and trade, energy and finance. The motives behind these efforts, Mr Ibrahim added, were the unwillingness of the industrialised countries to shoulder their responsibities towards the unbalanced situation in the world economic relations and towards achieving the new world economic order.

He pointed out that the developing nations realize that the achievement of national development could not be attained outside the world economic situation and world economic relations between the developing and the industrialised countries. Iraq's invitation for holding his meeting in Baghdad has stemmed from Iraq's realization of its national and international responsibilities being part of the Arab nation, as a developing country, as a member of the OPEC and the Group of 77 and as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement besides its realization of the necessity of solidarity and coordination among the Third World countries and the affiliated organizations, Mr Ibrahim said.

OIL MINISTER CITES GRAVE OIL MARKET SITUATION

JN011018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA) -- Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim has warned that the present situation of the oil market is very grave. He said that OPEC has to find solutions capable of protecting the interests of all member states.

In press statements published here today in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH on the occasion of the ninth anniversary marking the victory of the nationalization of oil in Iraq, the minister stressed that the demand for OPEC oil continues to deteriorate as is the case with prices and production. He said that about 3 million barrels of surplus oil are regularly and daily supplied to the market. He also said that Iraq has called for an extraordinary conference to deal with the situation and to find solutions capable of protecting the interests of all member states. He regretted the OPEC states' failure to coordinate their stands on the current state of affairs despite all that is taking place in the oil market.

He asserted that there is a dire need to deal with the situation and stop the deterioration in the oil market for the sake of the organization's future. He stressed that Iraq enjoys the confidence of its clients due to its ability to fulfill commitments as a result of a strong economy despite the current extraordinary circumstances in Iraq.

HUSAYN, YAR PRESIDENT TOUR FRONTLINE POSITIONS

JN261634 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn and his guest YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih performed today's prayers at Saddam Husayn's mosque in Qasr-e Shirin. The two presidents then toured several frontline positions in the central sector of the operations theater against the racist Persian enemy. The commanders and officers of the sector's units and formations briefed the two leaders on the military situation. A front-line unit presented two pieces of arms to the two presidents -- pieces captured by the unit during its battles against the Persian enemy -- as a sign of admiration and appreciation of the two presidents.

Salih Departure Statement

JN271140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Doha, 27 Feb (INA) -- YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived here today on a 2-day visit to Qatar on the sixth leg of his current tour of Arab countries.

In a statement to INA before leaving Baghdad, President Salih expressed his country's readiness to support Iraq in the war against Iran until an end is put to this war through safeguarding the legitimate rights of the two sides.

He said that the YAR's stand on this war stems from its policy and principled conviction that it must champion Arab rights in all circumstances and in all places. This will continue to be the YAR's stand on the Arab nation's causes regardless of the circumstances. He added that his visit to Iraq provided him with the opportunity to discuss with Iraqi officials ways to promote bilateral relations in service of the joint interests of the two countries and the Arab nation.

President Salih said that he explained to President Saddam Husayn and to the Iraqi officials the steps that have been taken on the road to unifying Yemen and that the YAR is diligently working to achieve it given that this unity will be a gain to all the Arabs and not only to our people. He added that he had sensed an understanding of and a readiness to support these measures by Iraqi officials and that the current Arab situation had also been reviewed. He stressed that an agreement has been reached to exert all possible efforts to eliminate Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity which is the basis for the Arab nation's capability in confronting its enemies and protecting its rights. He added: We also have agreed to support the Palestinian revolution in its confrontation of the Zionist attempts aiming at liquidating it particularly after the Camp David accords enabled the Zionist entity to practice belligerency without any fear or being deterred.

The YAR president also said that he had sensed a great understanding and response from Iraq to help us in restoring Arab solidarity and checking the deterioration of Arab relations caused by the continued Arab differences.

Concluding his statement, President Salih said his hopes are great that the Arab nation would overcome the current situation and emerge from it armed with its genuine character, the awareness of its leaders and maturity of its people.

President Salih and his accompanying delegation were seen off by President Saddam Husayn; 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; RCC members; ministers and ranking officials.

VOAS REPORTS TWO EXPLOSIONS IN HOMS PROVINCE

JN272108 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1950 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Homs -- On the 25th of this month, two huge explosive charges went off in two of the criminal regime's militia concentrations, one in the village of (Sayid) and the other in the village of Shattayah in Homs Province. The two explosions led to the death or injury of hundreds of the regime's soldiers.

MUJAHIDIN CONTINUE RESISTANCE IN HAMAH

JN272059 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1950 BMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Hamah -- For the 25th straight day, the mujahidin continue to control the following areas: Al-Jaylaniyah, Zanbaq, Al-Farrayah, Al-Juzdan, Ash-Shaykh 'Anbar, Al-'Barudiyah and the northern region. They also continue to launch daily attacks on the criminal regime's positions to liberate them.

All the criminal regime's attempts to storm the mujahidin positions in the Al-Qal'ah area and Umm Al-Hasan garden have failed. The regime's forces sustained great losses in the four abortive landing [as heard] attempts. The mujahidin managed to annihilate all of the landing party. Each landing attempt included 200 people. Battles are still continuing between the mujahidin and the regime's defense squads in the Al-Qal'ah area. Battles are also taking place in the area between Al-Harayn, 8 March Street and Al-'Alamayn Street, where the regime's vehicles cannot move due to the large number of burned tanks and the mujahidin's strong defenses.

Meanwhile, continuous sniping fire prevents the regime's soldiers from undertaking any move from their positions. One of the most prominent battles, in which massive losses were inflicted on the regime, was that of Al-Hamidiyah on 12 February. The mujahidin lured a column of the defense squads' tanks into the Al-Hamidiyah area where an ambush was set up. The incident led to the complete destruction of 51 tanks.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN ARRIVES

JN271446 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Bulgarian National Assembly Chairman Stanko Todorov arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. Todorov will hold talks with the Iraqi National Assembly officials on bolstering friendship and cooperation between the two countries and assemblies.

Received by Ramadan

JN011235 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Stanko Todorov, the Bulgarian National Assembly chairman. Taha Yasin Ramadan welcomed the Bulgarian guest, stressing that the visit holds special importance and reflects the depth of friendship and humanitarian connections between the two countries. He said that relations between Iraq and Bulgaria have developed and that Iraq wishes to further promote them.

Ramadan said that Iraq is determined to confront aggression and achieve final victory guaranteeing its sovereignty over its waters and territory and preventing interference in its internal affairs. He added that Iraq is equally determined to continue its construction and development.

He asserted that Iraq has no desire for war and that it has no ambitions in Iran and said: Iraq is still ready to cooperate with any side or organization which is capable of finding an honorable and just solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. He added that Iraq's repeated peaceful initiatives are the first of their kind in modern history because a victorious and superior state is asking for a cease-fire, while the aggressor is insisting on intransigence and arrogance. This he said, shows that the enemy has ambitions in others' lands and hostile aims, something which requires the world to condemn the Iranian regime's policy which is based on aggression and ambitions.

Stanko Todorov expressed satisfaction with the progress of relations between Iraq and Bulgaria. He also expressed his admiration and pleasure at Iraq's successes and accomplishments. He also admired the huge development plans which are being implemented despite war conditions. He said that Bulgaria evaluates highly Iraq's initiatives and stands toward solving the conflict with Iran peacefully and in a manner which guarantees its legitimate rights to territory and waters, expressing the hope that the mediation committees will reach a solution ensuring the two sides' rights. He also praised Iraq's important and prominent role within the Nonaligned Movement and its persistant work to consolidate this movement. The meeting was attended by National Assembly Deputy Speaker Baha' ad-Din Ahmad and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Haddad

JN281447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) -- National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad met here today with his Bulgarian counterpart, Stanko Todorov. Discussions during the meeting focused on relations between the two countries and assemblies as well as on the situation in the Arab area and the current international situation. The Bulgarian delegation arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday on a visit of several days to Iraq, at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

MINISTER RAMADAN CONFERS WITH HUNGARY'S MARJAI

JN271605 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, have stressed that Iraqi-Hungarian relations are distinctive and developed. During their meeting here today, Ramadan and Marjai expressed hope that these relations would develop in all fields. Ramadan reaffirmed Iraq's sincere desire to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict peacefully and in a manner which guarantees legitimate rights to land and waters.

The deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers is currently in Iraq to lead his country's delegation at the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee for economic, commercial and technical cooperation. During his talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Marjai said that his visit is aimed not only at expanding and developing economic and technical cooperation between the two countries through the joint committee meetings, but is also representing a Hungarian political stand aimed at developing relations with Iraq in all fields. He praised Iraq's efforts to solve the conflict with Iran peacefully and in a manner which guarantees its just rights, stressing that peace benefits the Arab region in particular and the world in general.

The joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee began its meetings this morning. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, headed the Iraqi side. During the first session, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the work of the technical subcommittees from the previous session. These subcommittees are in charge of discussing the development of cooperation in industry, oil, agriculture, irrigation, transport, trade and science.

HUSAYN DISCUSSES ARMS SALES IN ABC INTERVIEW

JN012134 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2010 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Interview in Amman with King Husayn by ABC correspondents David Brinkley, George Will and Sam Donaldson conducted via satellite on 28 February -- recorded]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty, tell us first, why are you buying weapons from the Soviet Union? Is it because you don't like the restrictions put on them by the U.S.?

Answer: For the very simple reason that we need them for our legitimate self-defense in an area where we are committed, as we have been for a number of years, not only to defend ourselves, but to play a role in maintaining security and tranquility as well. This has involved us in the Gulf area, in Oman, in North Yemen.

We have seen in recent years the growth beyond all doubt and reasons of Israel's might, but beyond that also weapons have been pouring into the area and they come from both East and West. We have slipped behind and this restricts our ability to play a constructive role in this area, apart from the dangers we face ourselves. So when the doors were closed to us in Washington, over some years, we had a situation, in particular in 1980, when there was a mass-up of troops on our borders and a very ominous one, almost reminiscent of what might be termed the '70 disaster. We looked at all sources available. Washington gave us a cold shoulder at that time and we looked at other options. Iraq, despite its commitments, helped us materially and we bought Soviet missiles.

Question: Your Majesty, if I may ask you, are the doors still closed in Washington? Do you not now expect the Reagan administration to go ahead and propose to Congress the sale of sophisticated weapons to Jordan?

Answer: We have, at this stage, the opportunity to study the situation. I had the privilege of meeting with the President and with many of my friends in the United States. I feel that there is a new atmosphere. I feel reassured that the solid foundation on which we built for many, many years, friendship, mutually beneficial, with the common objectives of seeking a just, durable peace in this area, these foundations exist again, and I have hopes that we will overcome our difficulties.

Question: Well, have you not asked for new weapons from Washington?

Answer: We have not asked as yet. We, unfortunately, caused Secretary Weinberger some difficulties when he gave us the pleasure of visiting with us recently. We obviously discussed many matters with such a refined and able and great man that I admire and respect. But obviously we also discussed our military requirements and the situation in general as well as the situation in the entire area.

The requests when they will be formulated will be presented to the United States at the joint military commission meetings that are scheduled to be held at a time in the near future. We are in the process of preparing our requests and we will see what the answer is.

Question: Your Majesty, would you consider it a test of the United States' friendship or do you consider it a necessity to your military needs that Jordan receive from the United States the mobile Hawk missile?

Answer: As far as the mobile Hawk missile is concerned, it's a very sad story, the whole question of air defense. We are exposed to danger from many directions and our VPS [as heard] are important tragets within Jordan, within easy reach from many directions. We got the Hawk missile in the past, unfortunately, Israeli influence, I understand, was such that we were restricted to placing them in certain locations, anchored to the ground in cement, and this is obviously not something we can really be satisfied with at all.

They are easy targets and they won't do. So we need more viable air defense and obviously the advanced Hawk and mobilizing what we have is something that we look at very seriously.

Question: Have you consummated a deal with the Soviet Union for the very mobile SAM-8 system?

Answer: I can't give you any specifics at this stage, but this whole issue was settled with the Soviet Union before I came to Washington, so it wasn't a subject of bargaining, it was a situation that was finalized before I came to Washington.

Question: Your Majesty, if I may ask you a question of somewhat broader nature. The Iranians, it seems to us here, seem to be spreading a new brand of -- or an old brand -- of Islamic fundamentalism through the Middle East to various places. Are you concerned about this, worried about this?

Answer: I am worried of what I believe is a very sinister, almost criminal attempt to create a rift between Muslims, between Shi'ites and Sunis. This we saw fairly obviously at the very beginnings and then obviously Iraq was a target. Fortunately Iraq and the area has withstood this attempt and I hope that it will not result in any success because it would be devastating. It would cause disintegration and far greater tragedy than this area has seen than any other.

Question: Do you see that as an active possibility?

Answer: I hope it will not transpire into a fact. Fortunately Iraq held as one nation and to my way of thinking -- and that is an idea and opinion shared by many in the area, Iraq is a front line, not only for us in Jordan but for the entire area, for the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and Oman as well.

Question: Your Majesty, do you expect Israel to go into Lebanon in the next few weeks with ground forces and air forces, and if Israel does that, what will you do?

Answer: Well, the danger is there, obviously, and Lebanon is, unfortunately, a tragic situation that has lasted for far too long. We are equally, I suppose, in danger on the longest cease-fire line with Israel. What we can do, I can't tell in advance. I do not know what will happen, but certainly the signs are ominous.

Question: Well, do you have any intelligence information to suggest the Israelis are preparing an attack into Lebanon?

Answer: We have information to suggest that there has been a buildup over a period of time on the Lebanese border, and maybe Lebanese soil as well, and it looks as if this is in preparation for some action.

Question: Well, are you counting on the United States to deter Israel? Are you counting on Washington to make certain that Prime Minister Begin does not move?

Answer: Well, we would hope, certainly, that Washington will exert all its influence to prevent such a disaster from occurring.

Question: Your Majesty, when there was a great stalemate between Egypt and Israel, out of the blue As-Sadat made a trip to Jerusalem and wound up getting the Sinai back. What would it take, what can you imagine it would take to get King Husayn to go to Jerusalem?

Answer: I'd never go to Jerusalem under Israeli occupation, to begin with, but more than that, it would be fair, if I can pose a question to our friends in the United States, on what basis do they assume that progress can be made toward the establishment of a just and durable peace? We accepted from you a commitment when we signed Security Council Resolution 242 to support its implementation within a period of 6 months. We signed it on the 22nd of November 1967. The formula was simple, withdrawal for security for all in the area, total withdrawal for total peace.

Well, here we are now, several years back [as heard] and you ask us what would it take us to move. I believe that you should answer this question and the problem is with you and you can contribute immensely toward establishment of a just and durable peace in this area.

Question: But not through the Camp David accords? You believe the Camp David process is dead do you not?

Answer: I believe the Camp David accords may, in the view of some, have achieved something. I hope that we will see the final evacuation of Egyptian occupied territory, but beyond that, I believe it brought about this area of confusion where Washington and the United States asks us what we should do and where you play the role of, not a mediator, but almost a bearer of views from one side to another, as in comparison with the very clear commitment undertaken in '67 and since then over a long period of time.

So, the question is, what basis must be there for us to build and establish peace upon them, and has Camp David in fact eroded the United States' position in this regard or not?

Question: Well, has it eroded it? What is your answer, Your Majesty?

Answer: I am puzzled and I am posing the question very clearly to our American friends.

Question: Your Majesty, you pointed out that Resolution 242, the United Nations, you signed 15 years ago. What -- another problem that has run on at least as long, in fact longer, is the Palestinian homeland. Do you have any new, different thoughts on that? Where would you put a Palestinian homeland?

Answer: Obviously, on Palestinian soil. And here let me say, I hear references to 1970 -- 1970 was a very tragic period in our lives here. The issue was not Palestinians and Jordanians against each other. On both sides there were Palestinians and on both sides there were Jordanians.

It was an issue of law and order and the survival of this country or otherwise. We live here as one family, but the question is not where to settle the Palestinians; the question is Palestinian rights in occupied Palestinian territory. The question is Christian and Muslem rights in Jerusalem, as well as the rights of people of the Jewish faith.

Question: Your Majesty, in 1949, as I understand it, your grandfather announced the annexation of the West -- what is now called the West Bank -- and this was only accepted by two nations in the world and was denounced by the UN. Rabat made the PLO the spokesman for the Palestinians. What does this leave in the way of Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank?

Answer: Well, since the Rabat summit we have felt that the entire Arab world opted for the PLO being the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. This stems from a feeling that the people of Palestine must be involved directly in any meaningful negotiations leading to a settlement of the Palestinian problem. We have adopted this policy and support it fully, but in the period prior to '67, since 1950, the West Bank and the East Bank were united and people were members of one country and one nation.

Question: Your Majesty, thank you very much for being with us this morning and responding to our questions.

JORDANIAN DAILY ON KING HUSAYN'S INTERVIEW

JN010944 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 82 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Path To Peace"]

[Text] In his interview on U.S. television yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn expressed the profound feeling of bitterness felt by every devout Arab when he sees the entire Arab region exposed to the gravest dangers, yet unable to obtain the minimum means of defense and ways of confronting these dangers.

In confronting increasing Israeli military power, which constitutes the main source of those dangers, every sincere Jordanian and Arab effort to obtain arms faces endless obstacles. This has enabled Israel to maintain absolute military superiority in the region and, consequently, to continue its aggression and lust for expansion.

Perhaps, the uproar which has been created by Zionist circles over Jordan's desire to obtain sophisticated weapons, and Washington's reservations as a result of this uproar, presents an accurate picture of the region's sufferings due to Zionist blackmail.

The king has declared that Jordan's efforts to obtain sophisticated weapons stem from its legitimate right of self defense and the basic role it is playing in maintaining stability in the region. He stressed that the experiences of the recent past prompted Jordan to seek arms from any other possible source after Washington had turned its back and left it no other choice.

It is time the United States, with which Jordan has established a firm friendship based on the common objective of achieving peace, realized that this peace will not be achieved as long as Israel has the upper hand in this region and absolute military superiority which enables it to dictate its terms to the other sides which are seeking peace.

Peace, as understood by Jordan and as expressed by King Husayn while he was inquiring about the bases which Washington considered best for peace, cannot be achieved in the absence of a military balance between the disputing sides and of a sincere desire by all sides and forces to achieve it.

AD-DUSTUR: MUBARAK'S ISRAELI TRIP A 'REAL TEST'

JN020923 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Jerusalem and the Real Test," AD-DUSTUR says: Since Shamir's return from Cairo a few days ago and his failure to set a date for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel, all Israeli officials' statements and actions indicate a link between Mubarak's going to occupied Jerusalem and the final Israeli withdrawal from the rest of Sinai. It is clear that Begin's government has actually begun to threaten postponing withdrawal from Sinai if Mubarak does not go to occupied Jerusalem. What consolidates this belief is the swift Egyptian move represented by Ashraf Ghurbal, Egyptian ambassador in Washington, cutting short his consultations in Cairo and returning to his post, carrying two messages, one for President Reagan and another for Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has also summoned the Western countries' ambassadors and informed them of Egypt's stand on the Jerusalem issue.

The paper adds: This Egyptian move and this Egyptian officials' worry indicate an Israeli threat to postpone withdrawal. However President Mubarak, realizes Israel's aims, and has refused to include in his short visit either the western or eastern parts of Jerusalem despite the dangers posed by this refusal. Thus, he refuses to yield to Israeli threats. Therefore, he quickly informed President Reagan of developments, hoping that the U.S. President will move to face this dangerous development in the Israeli stand.

The paper goes on to say: Mubarak's stand so far is satisfactory and we hope he will continue to resist Israeli extortion because his retreat under the threat of postponing withdrawal will subject him to more Israeli demands, weaken confidence in his national and pan-Arab policy and block the way for his return to the Arab fold.

The paper concludes: The steadfastness of the Egyptian president in face of Israeli pressures will be a real test of Egypt's national and pan-Arab trend, and a test of Washington's ability to choose between supporting aggression or supporting and consolidating just and comprehensive peace efforts in the region.

KING RECEIVES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

JN011708 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon a delegation of the socialist group in the European Parliament.

His majesty reviewed the dimensions of the Palestinian cause, the background of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the current situation in the region, the nature of the dangers to which it is being exposed, the measures of aggression which Israel is implementing by transforming the geographical, economic and demographic nature of the occupied Arab territories and the recurrent aggressions against Arab lands.

His majesty stressed that security and stability would prevail in the Middle East only if a just, lasting and comprehensive peace is achieved in accordance with the bases acknowledged by the United Nations which call for removing Israeli occupation from the Arab territories, returning Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty and safeguarding the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate on the soil of their homeland.

His majesty referred to the importance of the European role in contributing to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in view of the close links and joint interests that exist between Europe and the Arab world.

The meeting was attended by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni, and Ahmad al-Lawzi, head of the Royal Hashemite Court.

ARMY COMMANDER DEPARTS AMMAN FOR QATAR VISIT

JN011109 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Amman -- Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, left Amman this morning for fraternal Qatar on a visit lasting a few days at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent, defense minister and commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces.

MILITARY BUILDUP INCREASES AMIDST BOMBS, CLASHES

NC011333 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Today, a military expert examined a car in the Ar-Rawshah area and found a timebomb, which he defused, thus sparing the area a new calamity. It turned out that the boobytrapped car was a Renault and that the bomb was timed to explode shortly after midday today.

In the (Saint Simon-Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda) area, an armed clash occurred among men of the working people's forces and the Democratic Front.

Palestinian and leftist concentrations have been sighted on the southern coastal road. These concentrations were reinforced by heavy artillery and various military vehicles. It was also stated that fire was opened on a naval vessel cruising the shore area spanning As-Sa'diyat and Al-Jiyah, because it had aroused suspicion.

Meanwhile, a guarded situation prevails in the south against a background of opposing Palestinian and Israeli concentrations, which have been confirmed by King Husayn and the U.S. defense secretary in an interview with a U.S. television network. In this interview the king and the secretary emphasized the seriousness of the situation existing in the south.

Lebanese Army 1st Lt 'Abduh 'Abd as-Satir has been released. This officer had been abducted by men of the Al-Asad Battalion in Ash-Shuwayfat under the pretext of seeking the release of Muhsin Zamzam.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES RECENT BOMB ATTACKS

NC011526 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] A meeting was held today between President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in the presence of Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Al-Wazzan, in reply to a question about the recent wave of explosions, said: Experience has taught us that these explosions come in successive waves. Regrettably, these explosions are used to serve the trends and purposes of those who have ulterior motives. Al-Wazzan added: I met with the director general of the Internal Security Forces this morning and we reviewed what can be done to end this wave of explosions. These measures have become well-known. The authorities are dutybound to intensify the patrols, which must remain in place longer on the roads and crossroads.

LONDON WEEKLY INTERVIEWS PRIME MINISTER

PM261055 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 26 Feb 82 pp 12-14

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to Ibrahim al-Barjawi and Amin as-Siba'i in Beirut -- date not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the interview we said to Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wassan: Let us begin with the south. It is currently a hot issue. Despite conflicting predictions, which on the one hand affirm that Israel is heading toward occupying it and on the other preclude this possibility at least for the present because of Arab and international considerations, on many occasions you have expressed the view that the danger of invasion does exist. What have you done in practice to confront the danger you are expecting?

Prime Minister Al-Wazzan replied: In fact our main preocupation has been the problem of the south because we feel that the Lebanese crisis -- its origin, its developments, and its ultimate end -- center on the south. We have often talked about the conspiracy. Who is behind this conspiracy other than Israel, its masters and its stooges? Southern Lebanon is the focus of Israeli designs and the field where it would seek to solve its internal problems -- at the expense of this good land, its suffering people and its natural resources.

For this reason we have been concentrating our attention on the south. Part of the south today is under direct Israeli military occupation. Since the beginning of this Israeli occupation Lebanese authorities have been seeking the implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for an end to the occupation (Resolution 425 and the subsequent ones. As I told UN envoy to Lebanon Brian Urquhart today, the stagnant position of the UN forces has made us feel that Israel has achieved two victories: The first victory is the fact that it has kept for itself the border strip and the second that it has kept behind this strip yet another barrier to protect itself, namely the UN forces barrier. Anyone who looks at the map of the south can see this situation.

For this reason Lebanese action at every level has sought to change this situation. We believe that with our Lebanese military capability we are unable to bring about a withdrawal or fight Israel. So we had had to knock at UN doors in order to implement the Security Council resolutions providing for Israeli withdrawal. At the same time we have had to knock at the doors of our Arab brothers in order to urge them to show solidarity and to lay down a unified Arab strategy that would help us implement these resolutions as well as help us to lay down a strategy that would provide for, among other things, not only removing the existing aggression but also preparing for any anticipated aggression.

Those in a position of responsibility cannot acept speculation -- that is some people interpret Israel's moves as designed for intimidation and bluster while others interpret it as actual preparation for attack. I, as a responsible official, have to act with the highest degree of caution, and on anticipating the worst, which is, invasion or occupation. For this reason during our tour of the Arab countries before the Arab summit in Fes we stressed to the Arab kings and presidents the need for a special summit to look into the question of saving the south.

AL-HAWADITH: As a result of all these efforts could Israel be deterred from carrying out its aggression despite the short time?

Shafiq Al-Wazzan: You call it a short time but we were active several months before the Fes conference: We were calling for a special conference on the south. Time was not so short as you describe it now. We are now in February. However, whether time is short or not we cannot stand idly by. The fact that time is short should perhaps make our shouting louder and our contacts more urgent and more effective. This is what we are doing continuously.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the task of the Arab strategic committee to protect the south? Does Lebanon want a political strategy or a military strategy from this committee, and what is your view of what is being said about the existence of a Syrian working paper suggesting the drawing up of a comprehensive Arab strategy covering all the Arab fronts and not just Lebanon alone?

Shafiq al-Wazzan: First, I wish it was not said that there is a Syrian working paper, or a Lebanese working paper or any other working paper. In the first place we proceed on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions. These resolutions entrusted a small body consisting of Arab countries to be chosen by the Arab League secretary general to be responsible for drawing up this strategy. In the plan Lebanon submitted to the Arab committee it does not consider itself as having submitted a purely Lebanese paper. To facilitate the task of this minicommittee, Lebanon was entrusted by the Arab League secretary general to draw up a plan. Lebanon considers itself part of this Arab minicommittee entrusted by the secretary general to draw up a plan to be studied by the members.

Having made this remark I would say that the minicommittee is required to implement the Fes summit resolutions. The resolution does not provide for a comprehensive Arab strategy for the Arab-Israeli conflict. We have no objection to the Arabs having a strategy of this sort, but the summit resolution concentrated on south Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that because of how the Arab strategy committee was formed it carried within it the seed of failure and even of never meeting at all. This is thought to be due to the sharp disagreements among its members. What is your opinion?

Shafiq al-Wazzan: The principles the committee was based on are neither ideological nor partisan. The countries the committee is formed from are first those surrounding Israel and the countries on the Arab Followup Committee. Added to them is the PLO as being directly concerned with the matter under discussion and Iraq as a member of the committee that drafted the resolutions approved by the Fes foreign ministers conference prior to the summit. Therefore, there is no disagreement or fear. So long as these countries have already agreed on putting Fes resolutions into effect it will not be difficult for them to come out with a joint Arab plan which not only will be laid down and implemented by these countries but to which all the Arab countries will be committed to implement. The Arab disagreement you refer to should not distract us from taking all the measures that are necessary to confront the Israeli enemy.

AL-HAWADITH: There was great controversy over Lebanon's request to the Security Council to increase the size of the UN forces by 1,000 men. Certain quarters said that if this number solves the problem, why does the Lebanese Government not send 1,000 Lebanese Army soldiers south, particularly since the road south was previously opened for the two battalions now stationed there?

Shafiq al-Wazzan: So far as I know the Lebanese authorities did not specify the number of new UN troops. All the Lebanese authorities asked was for the effectiveness, capabilities and powers of the UN forces to be enhanced so they will be able to implement Resolution 425 and its supplements. When we spoke about an additional number of troops we had in mind a particular gap between Marj 'Uyun and Dayr Mimas where no UN forces are stationed. There is no barrier there between Israel and the rest of Lebanese territory. For this reason we insisted that this gap be blocked by increasing the number of UN troops in order to prevent Israel from having a free crossing if it attacks. Of course, Israel can attack a thousand other ways but it would be useful and better not to leave it easy and free access.

AL-HAWADITH: There is tentative discussion about forming a government to be headed by a Christian to administer the country's affairs if it becomes impossible to elect a new president of the republic before the expiration of President Ilyas Sarkis' term. What is your opinion of this discussion as a politician and not as prime minister?

Shafiq al-Wazzan: In the matter of forming a government or the resignation of a government, I have always been inclined to make no comment because any comment would be interpreted in different ways. Have you not seen that my enthusiastic devotion to service has prompted some people to say that I am working in the interest of parliamentary elections? By God, it is as if we are so sure that parliamentary elections will take place in this country.

With regard to your question I would say that those who think in this manner seem to base their views on an assumed inability to elect a president for the republic. I do not wish to dwell on such a thought. In fact, true patriotism makes it incumbent upon us to create a suitable atmosphere for the election of a new president for the republic as this would ensure the continuity of Lebanese legitimacy. Everybody should cooperate in achieving this objective. We should not think out loud of the other possibilities because this could be a reason for creating disputes and further fears which might prompt some people to consider such harmful thoughts. Is it not our right to ask, when the constitution empowers the government in office to act for the president of the republic if for any reason the presidential post becomes vacant, whether to think of a Christian [to form a government] is not an act of discrediting the Muslim? Does this not discredit the patriotism of the Muslim and doubt him?

I do not wish to indulge further in this premature thought. The country is not devoid of wise people. When we -- God forbid -- come to the state when we are unable to elect a president of republic the country will not lack wise people who would guide it to the safe path.

AL-WAZZAN INTERVIEWED ON HABIB DISCUSSIONS

NC271541 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Before proceeding to the Republican palace today, U.S. envoy Philip Habib was received in successive meetings by Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan answered newsmen's questions with an elaborate [mushab] statement. The prime minister began his statement, saying:

[Begin recording] [al-Wazzan] The subjects discussed with Mr Habib can be summed up by saying that they concern a subject of interest to all of us -- stability, particularly in the southern area. The linchpin of the discussion was the method of stabilizing the cease-fire in the wake of the recent Israeli threats. The reason is that the cease-fire remains the premise for any action being taken, whether it concerns implementation of Resolution 425, or any efforts being deployed to ensure security thoughout Lebanon. [words indistinct]

[Question] Has the discussion dealt with Lebanon's request, or is it [words indistinct]?

[Al-Wazzan] The foreign minister has provided our actual assessment of the situation by saying that this decision [not further specified] constitutes an important step taken toward implementation of Resolution 425. We have carried out the painstaking task of holding the contacts which we have made and of embarking on the discussions which we have held with several quarters at the United Nations and in the lobbies of the internal [as heard] Security Council. These contacts and discussions were tantamount to a tug of war resulting from the various international conflicts. I say that we, who have suffered from all these things, feel that, as far as our demands are concerned and thanks to our steadfastness, we have achieved not the best one would aspire to, but something better than past achievements. Despite the decisions which have been made, what is important is actual implementation as well as Israel's intentions and the deployment which can take place following the linkage between the process of increasing the number of men and the deployment of the UNIFIL forces in the area. We are looking forward to a UNIFIL deployment down to the international border in a way that would free the border strip. Concerning the other clauses of the UN Security Council's resolution, they are also considered to emphasize some matters that Lebanon always desires to see incorporated in UN resolutions, so far as boosting unity, safety of territory and sovereignty over this territory are concerned. Furthermore, Lebanon stresses the armistice agreement with Israel, because this agreement also confirms Lebanon's international border.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, Philip Habib said yesterday that he had come here to work. Does this statement mean that he brought with him specific solutions or ideas to put forward?

[Al-Wazzan] I have not noticed any ideas during the discussions that have been held with Mr Habib, except, as I have said, the expected quest of stabilizing the cease-fire and of thwarting any deterioration, such as the deterioration about which we are now hearing or which is being threatened.

[Indistinct question on the impact of the Kuwaiti decision on the session of the Arab Followup Committee]

[Al-Wazzan] All I can say is to reiterate the statement that not one of our brothers has notified us of any new stance contrary to the one on which agreement has been reached -- that is, to convene the session in March, next Monday.

[Question] What impact has the Kuwaiti decision had [on the Followup Committee session]?

[Al-Wazzan] This decision has no impact on our work whatsoever. This question should be asked of the Kuwaiti brothers. However, I believe that the present events in Lebanon should prompt everybody to disregard any other considerations, as long as the Lebanese authority is not acting in any way detrimental to the relations existing with any Arab quarter. On the contrary, during my tour and as part of the discussions, I advocated Arab solidarity, which is considered the sharpest weapon. It is inadmissible that any actions taken here or there, particularly without the Lebanese authority having anything to do with them, should have an impact on meetings of this caliber.

[Question] In light of the decision to increase the strength of the UNIFIL, will Lebanon increase the Lebanese Army forces in the south? How will Lebanon do this?

[Al-Wazzan] This matter is subject to any discussions which the UNIFIL might want to hold with us. The reason is that, at this time, responsibility for deployment in the south -- down to the international border -- stays with UNIFIL. We have contributed the forces we have dispatched in so far as we are allowed to contribute troops under the armistice agreement. Should there be any wider scope in the future, we will not hesitate to increase our forces in the south. [end recording]

LE MONDE, RADIO LUXEMBOURG INTERVIEW AL-ASAD

JN011443 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Interview granted by President Hafiz al-Asad to (Paul Balta) and (Christian Manar), representatives of LE MONDE and Radio Luxembourg -- read by announcer; date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] The Syrian press recently strongly criticized French President Francois Mitterrand's forthcoming visit to Israel, the first visit to Israel by a French president. What is your stand and do you believe this visit will make France an enemy to the Arab world?

[Answer] Let me first welcome you. We are also interested in acquainting world and French public opinion with our opinions on a number of issues. Some of these might be subject of discussion or a subject for questions and answers at our meeting. As far as we are concerned, President Mitterrand's visit to Israel is not a positive sign and is incompatible with France's role, Socialist or not. France -- a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a state raising slogans of freedom, democracy and nonaggression -- should not carry out action bound to encourage an aggressor nor acts insinuating that France is not concerned if a state attacks other states or if a state violates UN resolutions and charters, particularly if this state, I mean Israel, is carrying out a flagrant act of aggression that is unprecedented in this historical era. This flagrant aggression was embodied in Israel's annexation of a nonnegotiable part of Syrian territory.

President Mitterrand's visit comes at a time when world public opinion has unequivocably condemned the new Israeli aggression via the Security Council and the UN General Assembly. At this particular time, the French president intends to visit Israel. Based on these facts, we cannot deduce from this visit any positive developments in the French role in the Middle East, or consequently, in Arab-French relations.

[Question] Mr President: However, President Mitterrand has at the same time sent French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson to the Gulf states. Cheysson made statements, in effect, that he sees no negotiator for the Palestinian fighters except the PLO and that a Palestinian state must be set up in the occupied territories. President Mitterrand has on many occasions expressed his intention to say all this to Begin in Israel. Do you believe this constitutes a positive factor?

[Answer] Despite what President Mitterrand might say to the Israelis, the visit in itself has significance. The visit is one thing and what President Mitterrand might say there is something else. However, if it means he is going to Israel to say that the solution of the Palestinian problem dictates the participation of the Palestinian fighters, I do not think this will be persuasive. Nevertheless, if you mean to acquaint us with what President Mitterrand might say there, we say that President Mitterrand should speak with a just and principled logic, in accordance with France's responsibilities as a UN member and as a state enjoying relations with the Arab world. He should stress that Israel should withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and that the Palestinian people should regain all their legitimate rights, including the setting up of their own independent state. It is very important for President Mitterrand to affirm this, whether he does so in Israel, in Paris or anywhere else.

[Question] Mr President, you have not met with President Mitterrand since he assumed power. What are your impressions of him and do you wish to meet with him in the future to explain matters to him? Do you believe that former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who expressed the desire to visit Israel in early April, was closer to the Arabs than President Mitterrand?

[Answer] I do not wish to compare two presidents, a former and his successor. Comparisons might not be useful or important at this time. As for my meeting President Mitterrand, such a meeting has not taken place. This will be decided by circumstances and developments.

[Question] Are you ready to extend an invitation to him or to accept his invitation?

[Answer] As is very well known, we Arabs always honor and welcome guests. Within this context, I would welcome President Francois Mitterrand among us.

[Question] I believe President Mitterrand wants to exploit his good image in Israel and France's relations with the Arab world, which have developed ever since General de Gaulle's era, to play the role of mediator between the two sides. Do you believe he has any chance of success in this field?

[Answer] It is very well known that General de Gaulle adopted his famous stand when he realized that Israel is a state that had carried out aggressions against the Arabs. Therefore, his view differed from what we are hearing now from President Mitterrand. I read statements in France that carry this same meaning, that France must have good relations with both sides, thus enabling it to assume a positive role. It is, however, difficult to agree to the soundness of this opinion because experience has shown that it is false. Israel is an aggressor and does not heed the opinions of others when they contradict its objectives for expansion. If it takes heed of such opinions, it does so in a very limited and impractical manner. That's why Israel needs those who will strongly oppose its measures of aggression in deeds and not words, not those who offer it bits of advice.

[Question] If you find the statements President Mitterrand makes during his visit to Israel heavily biased toward the Jewish state, how will you react? Will you impose sanctions on France and in what form?

[Answer] It seems that this is a premature assumption. I cannot imagine that the president of the French Republic would go to Israel in order to attack us from there. To imagine such a thing could happen in actuality means that we are moving away from reality.

[Question] President Mitterrand has repeatedly stated that the Palestinian people have a right to a homeland, to a state and to determine their fate and that he wishes to tell this to the Israelis. Is this important?

[Answer] Yes, this is good. We highly commend these statements and hope they are backed by practical French stands. Such a trend, if developed and followed up, will lead to stronger relations between France and the Arab countries and will be in harmony with the role that France should assume.

[Question] Do you consider that, by visiting Israel, President Mitterrand supports Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, despite the fact that France condemned this annexation in the United Nations?

[Answer] I referred to this in my reply to the first question, to the effect that such a visit gives the impression that France is not against the aggressor or at least that France is not interested in a blatant state of aggression, such as the annexation of the Golan.

[Question] Mr President, Israeli officials have on several occasions announced willingness to negotiate with you without preconditions. Will you accept a peace agreement if the Golan is given back to you? What are your terms, if you have any?

[Answer] The issue is not one of well-turned phrases or with misleading Israeli attempts. The problem between us and Israel is not one of reasoning by sophistry. The problem is related to the implementation of norms, resolutions and laws endorsed by the entire world after humanity had suffered hong from woes and sacrifices and after it had paid a high price. When the Arabs call for the elimination of aggression, no one has the right to interpret this as a precondition. A precondition means that the assailant insists on its aggression until it imposes its own terms on the one it assailed.

It is Israel which is setting preconditions by continuing to seize occupied Arab territories, expelling millions of Palestinians, Syrians and other Arabs contrary to the logic of our time, to the logic of justice, to UN resolutions including those accepted by Israel itself and to the UN Charter.

Furthermore, why is Israel playing with words? UN resolutions provide for conferences and work methodologies under the UN supervision and leadership. Why is it also deviating from the substance and form of these resolutions to say: Let us negotiate bilaterally? This is because they want to enforce surrender on us. This is because Israel wants to impose its will on the Arabs.

The French considered Petain a traitor because he negotiated with the Germans while they still occupied French territory, although he said that he negotiated with the Germans for the sake of peace and, most of all, for France and for French women and children. However, you did not justify his deed and considered him a traitor who had yielded to the will of occupying invaders. How can we be asked to yield to the enemy's will and to accept his terms for negotiations while this enemy still occupies our land and expels our people?

There is another thing: Israel has not satisfied with occupying the Golan but decided recently to annex it, thus denying that the Golan is occupied land belonging to another state. Besides, Begin asserted in front of the Knesset that both England and France had made a mistake in marking the border between Syria and Palestine following the First World War. Therefore, by annexing the Golan, Begin said, the Israelis corrected this mistake. So, how can you connect this to the negotiations request and to Israel's peace claims?

[Question] Israel is committed to return the last third of Sinai to Egypt by 25 April. What will happen after that date? Also, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi told me in Tunis a few days ago that he hopes that an Arab summit conference will be held in Fes sometime in May or June and that Prince Fahd's plan will be on the agenda. I have also learned that Syria, or actually President Hafiz al-Asad, was not against Prince Fahd's plan. Yet later, Syria officially condemned the plan. Why did that happen and how much chance does this plan have?

[Answer] The issue is not related to a Saudi, Syrian, Jordanian or Tunisian plan but to Arab idea or plans. We have the same cause. We Arabs represent a side that was assailed. It is quite natural that we discuss things and exchange views regarding means of confronting this aggression. It is quite healthy for us Arabs to look at this issue from various angles and to look for the best methods to enable us to achieve our objective. We have learned from experience that although we may have different viewpoints sometimes, yet we can always reach a common ground for our confrontation of the Israeli aggression regardless of the nature and form of the confrontation. Therefore, the issue is not related to inter-Arab differences, as was reiterated by some news media, because our objectives are one and we discuss the methods to achieve these objectives.

[Question] A very short question, Mr President: Will there be another Arab summit conference in Fes after 25 April to agree on a joint Arab strategy in the face of the Arabs' common enemy?

[Answer] There is no connection between the summit conference, which will be held, and 25 April. As is known, we have Arab summit resolutions which dictate that Arab leaders should hold an Arab summit every year. Therefore, an Arab summit will be held this year, but there is no connection between this summit and the withdrawal from Sinai.

[Question] Under the circumstances, what are the conditions for Egypt's return to the Arab family?

[Answer] The matter has nothing to do with conditions. Egypt is a part of the Arab nation. Every since As-Sadat visited Jerusalem, we have been asserting that Egypt will return to the Arab nation. No regime can split Egypt from the Arab nation forever. Undoubtedly, we believe that Egypt will wreck the pretexts that constitute a barrier between it and the Arab nation. Egypt will rid itself of the restrictions binding it from returning to its leading position.

[Question] Mr President: The Iraqi-Iranian war that broke out 22 September 1980 is still continuing. Your country, Syria, is an Arab country with good relations with Ayatollah Khomeyni. Can you play the role of mediator in this dispute?

[Answer] Such mediation does not arise now. But we have always wished that this region, especially the forces and states which have adopted a clear stand on the Israeli aggression and how to tackle it, would turn into one solid block against this aggression.

[Question] Are you thinking of Iraq and Iran, or Iraq only?

[Answer] We are thinking of Iran also. We opposed this war, because it did not give Iran the opportunity to stand by our side with all its capabilities in facing the Israeli aggression. This explains our stand and that of all progressive Arabs on this war.

[Question] Mr President: How do you explain the recent events in Hamah? Were they due to purely internal factors since the Muslim Brothers charge that your regime lacks democracy, or are there other factors and motives behind these events?

[Answer] The Muslim Brotherhood did not talk to us about democracy. I do not think you heard them talk about this. They talk about instructions they received from God, and consequently these are nonnegotiable by the people. I cannot tell whether in France they support such a democracy. At any rate, our people defeated these reactionary ideas a long time ago. The Muslim Brothers were not dismissed by our people only now. They were dismissed by our people a long time ago, before the eruption of the revolution in 1963, because they entertain reactionary ideas and because they live far from the framework of history. If the prophet of Islam were to come again, he would fight them because they mutilate and harm Islam. However, if you want to know something about the situation in our country, we have a democracy unanimously approved by our masses through the conferences of their popular organizations and trade unions as well as through a general referendum. We have our party and a Progressive National Front which includes the various parties in our country. There are five parties. We also have our popular organizations and every organization has its own jursdictions. Our workers, for example, have the power to decide everything related to work and workers. They are organized within the framework of their trade union. They have ancient trade union traditions and they elect their leaders in free periodic elections. They also hold conferences to duscuss affairs from time to time in accordance with their regulations.

The same applies to the peasants. They can make decisions on issues of land and agriculture. In addition to their own organizations, they are represented in all state and party bodies which exercise the right to decide, whether this decision is political, economic, cultural, or anything else. We have organizations for youth, women, teachers and artists. We also have professional organizations for physicians, engineers, and lawyers. Every organization has its own jurisdiction within which it decides independently.

With respect to state bodies, we have a legislative council elected every 4 years by direct suffrage. We have councils in every governorate elected by the people which lead and exercise executive power in the governorates. The term of these councils is also 4 years. Citizens, however, can meet at any time to withdraw confidence from any member of these councils. There are no citizens in our country who cannot express their opinions in some way. These organizations have their own newspaper over which there is no control. Despite all this, I know that some of you in Western countries hold a different opinion on this. Some of you believe that when a person can issue a paper, then this is democracy and freedom, even if he issues his paper by a decision from outside his country, but that when a wide popular grouping possesses its own paper or papers, then this is dictatorhsip. Here we may differ with one another. If one person alone has the right to say what he wishes to the coummunity, then why cannot the the entire labor class in one country have the right to say to the people what it wants? In any case, the possession of their own papers by popular organizations and professional associations and parties links them more closely to the interests of the country and clocks foreign interference which is hostile to the country through these means.

Because of this situation and because we are exercizing our democracy -- which we attained as a result of experience, of a joint dialogue among factions and classes of our people in our country and as a result of the unified stand of these organizations, popular factions and parties -- we have scored many successes during the past 11 years. That's why the Muslim Brotherhood, or any other reactionary faction hostile to the people's interests, has not succeeded in achieving any objective that is sought or planned for from outside.

In any case, these reactionary and hostile moves, planned by the United States, in cooperation with quarters in the region, had as an objective subjugation to the U.S. will. However, as has been proven, they failed. We are confident that, as they failed in the past, as they failed now, they will always fail in the future. We are not a single person in power. We are not a military force. We are not a family or a tribe. We are a popular and party force which represents the broad masses and embodies the aspirations of our masses. We express our people's aspirations and hopes with our stands, our behavior and our acts. From here, we are confident of our strength and our present and future. That's why we regret what some write, compromising a journalistic integrity that dictates a search for truth and informing people about the truth. For example, a bomb explodes in our country. They write many stories about it and in various ways. They concoct various tales about it, while in Paris 17 bombs explode in one day and no one writes about this as much as they write about a single bomb in our country. While we regret this, we, however, believe as you probably do, that these articles do not change the facts. A paper in Paris, which is far from the facts, can write anything. This does not cause us as much harm as it does to the misinformed French citizen.

[Question] Mr President: Do you feel that the Americans, who accuse you of being a satellite for Moscow, are trying to benefit from the internal difficulties in your country; and are they also trying to destabilize your regime, because you are Moscow's friend in this region.

[Answer] It is no secret that the United States has agents in many Third World countries. U.S. agents are, directly or indirectly, agents of Israel. The United States uses these agents from time to time in line with its plans and strategy. I believe that many people in the world know that the Muslim Brotherhood is linked in one way or another with the United States. It manipulates this Muslim Brotherhood group, because it believes that the creation of problems might make us submit to Israeli wishes. The United States knows the limits of this group's abilities. I believe the United States realizes that our country and regime have sufficient bases of stability and that a group of reactionaries practicing terrorism cannot achieve anything important in the interestof the United States. We are confident of this. Here they are in Hamah. They gave them large quantities of arms through their agents in the region. We have announced and screened quantities of these arms on Syrian television. All these arms could achieve nothing. Our party confronted them from the very first moment and did not give them the chance to achieve their purpose. We are very confident of the future.

[Question] Mr President: Your neighbor, Lebanon, is still the scene of violent clashes among disputing factions. Do you intend to maintain the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF], which has become a Syrian force, to defend security? Also what do you think of French initiatives aimed at supporting the Lebanese security force, as was strongly called for by Delamarre?

[Answer] The ADF has always been Syrian and the Arabs have only participated with token forces. The presence of our forces in Lebanon is linked with Lebanon's need, not Syria's. We, as a fraternal neighbor country, are the most concerned over Lebanon's stability. We have already sacrificed much for this objective. We are trying to the best of our abilities to bring the disputing factions to some kind of common understanding that may, consequently, bring about final stability in Lebanon.

As for strengthening the Lebanese Army, we have supported this in the past. Besides, we have proposed to the legitimate authority in Lebanon that we participate in strengthening the Lebanese Army, particularly by training it.

The problem in Lebanon, however, is not whether to have a strong or weak Lebanese Army, but is a political one. Security in Lebanon is an issue of political security. We in Syria have come to the conclusion that to achieve security in Lebanon, the disputing factions must reach an accord.

Regarding France's stand on Lebanon, Minister Claude Cheysson said during his visit to Syria that France is a foreign country and that Lebanon's problem is, in the first place, a Lebanese Arab problem. France wishes to see this problem solved and wants to help to achieve that, although such help may be limited. The only possible solution is the Lebanese Arab one.

This is what Claude Cheysson told us. He also said that he had conveyed the same stand to the Lebanese authorities. I do not think anyone in Lebanon or the region opposes this stand.

[Question] The French paper LIBERATION once published an article accusing Syria of being behind the assassination of Delamarre, former French ambassador in Lebanon. Here is a copy of the paper and here is the article itself. Several papers quoted this article and commented on it.

[Answer] This is nonsense and needs no comment. I convey my greetings to the French people. We hope that the slogans raised by France, the slogans of the French Revolution, of freedom, democracy and justice, will always be honored and that all the French will continue to defend these slogans, particularly those working in posts of guidance and strategic leadership, whether they be politicans or men of the news media. We hope that all these will continue to defend the slogans of the French people, which have been raised high all through history. We hope that some of those who write in the press will always tell the truth. We are now facing a serious degradation of values, particularly as we read now in this paper. The writer of this article is causing harm to France and the French before causing any harm to Syria and the Syrians.

VOL ON HAMAH SITUATION, EXPLOSIONS IN ALEPPO

NC011818 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] It was noticed today that some form of military decisiveness [hasm] appeared in Syrian cities as a prelude to receiving envoy Philip Habib in an atmosphere free from pressure. Our correspondents reported that at 1100 today, hundreds of people, particularly women and children, were allowed to leave the city of Hamah. A ban on entry into the city, however, still holds.

Some 200 tanks left Hamah's central quarters at 1030 today firing into the air as an expression of joy and an indication of victory. In the meantime, civilian trucks moved house furniture and some 50 Red Crescent vehicles were allowed to enter Hamah for rescue and relief work.

Our correspondents, reporting on the situation in Hamah, said hundreds of buildings have been demolished and many other suburbs and houses have been turned into black rubble. No precise information on the death toll is available yet. However, certain reports confirm that the number of victims exceed several thousand.

In Aleppo, the old Syriac suburb has witnessed clashes that lasted about 3 hours. Last night and this morning violent explosions were heard in the city's suburbs.

SOURCES STRESS: HAMAH'S NORMAL LIFE RESUMED

JN021018 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Official Syrian sources today stressed that calm has returned to Hamah and that the inhabitants resumed normal life after the liquidation of the resistance pockets of the Muslim Brotherhood group. A popular march will be staged in the city today to protest the Muslim Brotherhood's actions.

POLICE HOLD 23 SINAI 'INVADERS' IN DETENTION

TA011017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The police are now holding in detention 23 of the invaders of the Per-el Moshav. Our correspondent, Shalom Oren, reports that the detainees include the head of the Qiryat Arba' Council.

SHARON PROMISES TO RESCIND MK RESTRICTIONS

TA011231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has promised to permit Knesset members freedom of movement in the Yamit District. This has been learned by our correspondent, Arye Golan. The Knesset speaker asked the defense minister to rescind the restrictions on movement by Knesset members, after all factions of the Knesset house committee agreed that the restrictions were harming the immunity of the Knesset members.

JOURNALISTS ALLOWED TO ENTER GAZA, SINAI

TA011431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The defense minister issued instructions to allow Israeli and foreign correspondents free entry to the Gaza District and Sinai. This has been announced by the Defense Ministry spokesman. Representatives of journalists requested that regulations limiting movement of journalists on the Golan Heights also be revoked.

BEGIN ADMONISHES EYTAN FOR REMARKS IN YAMIT

TA011513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has admonished Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan that if he again expressed himself the way he did in Yamit yesterday he would fire him. This has been learned by our correspondent Arye Golan. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon reported to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee about the prime minister's admonishment in a briefing on the IDF's measures in the Yamit District. The Knesset committee came out in support of the government's decision to prevent disruptions of order in northern Sinai and of the measures taken by the defense minister to carry out this decision.

Begin's Office Denies Report

TA011728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Communique issued by prime minister's office on 1 March]

[Text] A report has been made public saying that the prime minister told Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan that if he repeats his statement on television last night, he would be dismissed from office. That report is fictitious and totally unfounded. The prime minister held a telephone conversation with the chief of staff and told him his statements on television are liable to generate a misunderstanding and that the chief of staff's duty is to execute the government's resolutions, following instructions from the defense minister to whom Eytan is subordinate according to the law. The chief of staff received this admonishment with full understanding.

SHARON, EYTAN DIFFER ON SINAI SITUATION

TA012033 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Report by military correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpts] Differences of opinion between Chief of Staff Eytan and Defense Minister Sharon emerged last Friday morning. Reports began reaching the general staff and the Defense Ministry about the intention of the Stop the Sinai Withdrawal Movement to establish settlements. Minister Sharon told the chief of staff that immediate action was required in order to thwart the operation, which was meant to be large-scale.

Chief of Staff Eytan thought differently. In his opinion, and in the opinion of several senior officers, the information available at that time did not justify a large-scale military operation. He proposed to dispatch to the area a limited number of units, and to erect only a few barriers. The chief of staff also feared that a large-scale military operation would result in a hysterical reaction by the Stop the Sinai Withdrawal Movement.

Minister Sharon's opinion prevaled: The settlers are liable to resort to violence and, if we do not act at once, we shall be pushed into a massive struggle between thousands of settlers and IDF soldiers. With notable unwillingness, the chief of staff eventually agreed. Instructions to erect the roadblocks were given to the commander, Southern Command, by the chief of staff and through general staff channels.

This dispute was the subject of a talk between Minister Sharon and the prime minister on Friday night. According to a reliable source, the prime minister promised to the minister that the chief of staff would be dismissed if he did not fulfill the government directives in letter and spirit.

Yesterday the controversy emerged once more. This time, in view of the chief of staff's statement to the Yamit District settlers, the chief of staff, who hastened to arrive at the site, did everything in his power to prevent a confrontation between the Yamit settlers and the IDF, and he was successful. His statement about a reversion of the situation, however, angered the defense minister because the settlers interpreted it as a pledge to act toward the removal of the barriers and also because it could be interpreted as an identification with the demand of the settlers.

In a meeting between the settlers and the defense minister last night, the chief of staff again proposed to reduce the number of roadblocks and ease the mobility of the settlers. The defense minister reiterated his opposition and announced that all barriers will remain put. He again approached the prime minister, asking him to admonish the chief of staff. It appears the prime minister did do so, but more softly than the defense minister wanted this to be done. It is well known that the defense minister and the chief of staff are persons of firm character for whom the evacuation of Rafah approaches is very stressful and neither one wants to appear to cause harm to the settlers.

ALIGNMENT TO ABSTAIN FROM NONCONFIDENCE VOTE

TA011627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The Alignment faction will abstain tomorrow from the vote of nonconfidence in the Cabinet submitted by the Tehiya faction. Instead, it will initiate a joint call with the government for the settlers in Sinai to maintain law and order. Party Chairman Shim'on Peres explained that his party will abstain because, although the Alignment has no confidence in the Cabinet, neither does it want to support the actions of Tehiya and Gush Emunim.

PRIME MINISTER BELIEVES DRUCKMAN SHOULD RESIGN

TA011631 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] In anticipation of the vote of nonconfidence in the Knesset tomorrow, the prime minister believes that Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Hayim Druckman should resign from his post, since he declared he would vote for nonconfidence in the Cabinet. Mr Begin asked Minister Zevulun Hammer to make this position clear to the deputy minister. Minister Hammer answered that the Mafdal faction would demand Druckman's resignation, should he in fact vote against the Cabinet.

DRUCKMAN RESIGNS ON NONCONFIDENCE VOTE ISSUE

TA012018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The deputy minister for religious affairs, Rabbi Hayim Druckman, submitted his resignation this evening and tomorrow in the Knesset will vote nonconfidence in the government because of the Yamit affair. He will not resign, however, from the Mafdal party. This has been learned by our party affairs correspondent, Nisim Mish'al.

YAMIT DISTRICT SETTLERS PLEDGE NOT TO FIGHT IDF

TA011736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Representatives of Yamit District settlements promised the prime minister this afternoon that they would not raise a hand against the soldiers and will not cooperate with any element trying to harm IDF men. They told the prime minister they regard the roadblocks as a demeaning measure. The chairman of the settlements committee, Yitzhaq Regev, said the prime minister promised to personally follow progress in the negotiations with the settlers and for this purpose he will appoint a special liaison man. The settlers complained to Mr Begin that a part of his directives are not being executed by subordinates who are supposed to implement them.

INSPECTIONS AT YAMIT ROADBLOCKS 'VERY LENIENT'

TA020916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Our correspondent reports that inspections this morning at the roadblocks sealing the Yamit District off are very lenient and in fact nearly anyone can cross them. Our correspondent himself was delayed by the soldiers only after he had told them he was a journalist. Then he was told, contrary to what the defense minister's office announced last night, that correspondents are not allowed in. After some negotiating he was finally allowed through, and in other roadblocks, when he did not mention his occupation, he was not stopped at all.

PRESS VIEWS YAMIT, WITHDRAWAL OPPOSITION

TA020646 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 2 Mar 82

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The main topic in the press today is the Sinai situation.

HATZOFE says that the parties should accept the call issued by the chief rabbis of the Yamit District and the members of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal to exercise restraint. The youth and even more so the yeshivot students involved in the activity to stop the withdrawal from Yamit are the ones who should particularly heed that call.

After all, the Cabinet is likely to carry out the peace agreement in both letter and spirit, and so any confrontation would only lead to unnecessary civil strife. Let Yamit not experience the second Altalena affair and let not the opponents of the withdrawal bring the confrontation to a dangerous boiling point.

HA'ARETZ writes that when, more than 25 years ago, the Ben-Gurion government decided to pull back from the Sinai Peninsula, then Chief of Staff Moshe Dayan opposed this political line. He traveled, however, from one camp to another all over the Sinai and explained to the IDF officers that they must respect the order that would eventually be given for evacuation and withdrawal. This is how he should have acted, and this is indeed how he acted. If Lieutenant General Eytan now differs with the government, he should have at least been asked not to intervene in support of the Cabinet's opponents. If he disagrees with the defense minister's order demanding that the commander of the Southern Command report directly to him on everything that is happening with regard to the roadblocks, he should not complain that the hierarchical order is being disrupted and bypassed. Eytan should, according to the newspaper, only blame himself.

DAVAR says that it is safe to assume that as the spate of announcements and denials subsides, the chief of staff and the IDF officers will clearly understand where their role in the decisionmaking process ends and where their duty to choose between discipline or resignation begins. On the other hand, one should not accept normalization in the painful sphere of use of the European Jewry's holocaust in domestic Israeli struggles. Even though the newspaper claims the prime minister has himself contributed to the devaluation in the value of the holocaust, employing it in contexts of the Christians' plight in Lebanon because of the PLO's actions, this cannot justify the shameful conduct of those who donned the yellow tag who are either opponents of the withdrawal or people who demand compensation in the Sinai. Instead of wearing yellow on their chests, they ought to blush with shame.

The Jerusalem POST writes that this is the time for the government to serve unmistakable notice of its intention to stand firm. Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan, too, ought to be handed the message. The roadblocks must stay.

DAVAR: SECURITY, LIKE JUSTICE, MUST BE SEEN

TA281230 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 82 p 8

[Commentary by Mordekhay Barqay: "What really compensates for the military loss?"]

[Text] In Yamit today it is impossible to know how many inhabitants there are, who is an old-timer, who has already packed everything and is only waiting for the rest of the compensation, who is a newcomer coming from Petah Tiqva to stop the Sinai withdrawal, and who is a tourist who has come to have a curious look. But you can know exactly what the situation is in Eytam: who are the air force personnel who still remain there, which and how many buildings have been dismantled, who will live in the abandoned family quarters, exactly what the Thai workers are building and how the MFO command headquarters, with its seven national components, will be deployed.

For the moment it is true that the demarcation of the border in the town of Rafah has not yet been settled; it is not clear how much Egypt and/or the Palestinians will have to move around; how the problem of the refugees from the Canada camp will be solved and what will happen to the Bedouin quarter in (Dahaniyah). The bulldozers have stopped at the tent at the edge of the town and are waiting for political decisions. But, apart from such problematical places, work is progressing with almost pioneering feverishness; diggers are paving the road, a fence is being put up, border stones are being fixed and terminals of border stations are being built on both sides of the demarcation.

The Sinai evacuation is knocking at the door, its speed is accelerating and the publicity establishment is taking the trouble to bring the world's attention not only to how correct we are really being in this field, but also to how great the concessons are, how high the price is we are paying for peace. But after all this has been explained, we are left alone with the new reality -- without solutions to problems.

The question here is not one of the Sinai oil that could have supplied all our needs for the next 15 years; it is not the investments of many billions that have been left there with no technical, economic or political possibility of being removed; nor is it the difference between the $0.8 billion we received from the United States to build two new airfields and the $4.8 billion which is a cautious estimate of the expense of the Ramon campaign for new military deployment in Sinai. The question is one of the military assets being destroyed for us in the wake of the peace with Egypt, without any compensation at all.

In Sinai the air force had bases not only in 'Etzyon and Eyaam, not only in Refidim and Ofira, but in six other places. The United States is building 'Uvda in the 'Uvda Valley and Ramon in Ramat Mitrad for us, and we will build a third base at our own expense -- but no fourth or fifth bases will be built. There is no compensation for the defense Eytan and 'Etzyon provided us for the south of the country, even against the eastern front. And there is no solution to the problem of the density of the aircraft in Israel -- the inability to scatter the aircraft as a means of defense, the lack of airspace for use in training pilots.

The high spots -- (Jabal Yalaq), (Jabal Ma'rah), (Umm Hashiba) and others -- which permitted widescale electronic surveillance of the area and inside Egypt will no longer be in our hands and there is no substitute for them in any artificial system, however sophisticated. Without them Israel remains poorer in its intelligence.

Instead of the 10,000 square kilometers of training territory in Sinai, the IDF has acquired 400 kilometers (!) in the Negev and even this was at the expense of certain damage to settlements, traffic arteries, living arrangements and air quality. For lack of territory -- and for this reason alone -- it will be more difficult to hold large regimental and above-regimental land body exercises and it will be even more difficult to vary these exercises in terms of the geographical and climactic conditions.

Israel, which is being pushed back to Elat, is destroying its own control: practically -- guaranteeing freedom of shipping in the sea lanes leading to it from the south, in the area where there is such control by Egypt and Sudan, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and southern Yemen, some of them more and some of them less. The Sinai evaucation is necessarily compressing the IDF into certain areas, restricted from the aspect of topography, and, because of this, the IDF's concentrations are being made more vulnerable to damage by attacks by FROG and SCUD surface-to-surface missiles, without the ability to escape them by maneuvering or concealment. And what is most critical of all is the loss of the strategic depth, the loss of deterrent space and deterrent time Israel needs critically when war breaks out.

However firm and valid these points are, they have been known to the entire nation of Israel at least since signing the peace treaty with Egypt 3 years ago. They are recalled here because the day of cashing in the last credit is rapidly approaching and such a day is different in all ways from the day of the commitment to take such action. And they are recalled because the eastern front with all its sectors appears today and in the future to be more dangerous than it appeared on the day of signing the peace agreement with Egypt. They are recalled also because instead of the far off question of "what will happen if As-Sadat dies," an immediate reality has been created of a dead As-Sadat and a live Mubarak, who is substantially different from his predecessor. More than all these, however, concern is being expressed because what is being presented these days is a defense policy that has a gap between it and the heavy military cost of peace with Egypt, between it and the grave security challenges expected and possible.

Defense Minister Sharon has recently stated specifically what Israel will regard as an excuse for war (a renewal of attrition in the north, entry of an Iraqi force into Jordan, development of an Arab nuclear capability and a breach of the peace by Egypt). We may assume the plain talk is intended as deterrence, the credibility of which is primarily attributed to Sharon. Deterrence is being heard in the same breath -- and at least in "one focus" as a no less specific announcement -- as Israel has in fact resigned from the quantitative arms race with the Arab countries and therefore it will aim at renewing and updating equipment in its possession, but will not add new weapons systems. As a part of this defense policy, however, even the defense establishment has resigned from completing for a larger slice of the national budget. Sharon has cut the defense budget and put it at 27 percent of the GNP in comparison with the previous 1/3. He has fixed its size and promised the nation more security for less money -- without saying how.

With less money and an army whose size will not change in the foreseeable future, a soldier will not only receive one less gaberdine suit, but also less training. This is because apart from less training territory on the ground and less training space in the air -- because of the grave lack of these after the Sinai withdrawal -- it will also be allocated fewer hours of tank movement, less ammunition of all types and fewer reserves days because of defense budget limitations.

And if this is so, it will not be beyond the bounds of imagination that a Syrian pilots whose air force is in any case undergoing a quantitative and qualitative procurement drive, will train more than Israeli pilots and Jordanian tank personnel who are in any event regular soldiers, will fire more shells in training than will be fired by gunners in Israeli tanks who are in most cases reservists and, in any case, serve and train at most for 1 month a year.

With less money, according to any mathematical logic, less can be done to make qualitative improvement in weapons systems, less can be done in research and development. And the Lavi project -- essential and justified per se -- which will get out its first operational wing only in another 10 years (as a second rank plane after the F-18) -- will not make the situation easier in those 10 years, but on the contrary will use up resources, if not from the defense budget then from U.S. aid. Thus, this aid will go to the Lavi instead of being given to the IDF Air Force in the form of modern planes, which could be accomplished in a third the time needed to complete the Lavi project.

Not only in foreign countries, even in Israel there is no lack of those who read Sharon's words about the list of excuses for war and getting out of the arms race as aimed at consolidating Israel's deterrent force. This was also discussed before Sharon's time. But even someone who supports such a goal knows for sure that it is necessarily taking large resources, and more important, while it can be a response to a pan-Arab attempt to destroy Israel, it has no deterrent effect against a renewal of attrition in the north by the terrorists and the Syrians nor against in Arab hostage taker in the Jericho area and not even against a crude violation of the peace agreement in the south.

Therefore when against the background of important military assets lost in Sinai, and in view of expanding arms deals by Arab countries with West and East -- including Egypt, yes, Egypt -- the defense minister declares Israel's withdrawal from the arms race and at the same time outlines red lines whose crossing by Arabs means war, when he stresses the importance of credible deterrence and promises more security for less money, a gap remains in the public's feeling of security. This is not a matter of apathy or of a military secret. Security, like justice -- like deterrence -- must also be seen.

SHAMIR ADDRESSES CABINET ON RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA011216 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has again warned Cabinet members that crises and friction are to be expected in Israeli-Egyptian relations, but he believes it is in Egypt's interest to maintain peace with Israel.

Minister Simha Ehrlich, who presided over the Cabinet session yesterday, said that after the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai, a cool peace is expected to prevail between the two countries. Sharon called for completing the border demarcation with Egypt before 26 April.

Reviewing the state of the relations between Israel and Egypt, Shamir noted yesterday during the Cabinet session that lately Israel has received reports of numerous Egyptian statements on the great degree of consideration Cairo must show toward Egyptian public opinion. He said such things were not that conspicuous previously. He also told the ministers that the Egyptians have shown great sensitivity to the question of the status of Jerusalem, and that this was manifest, among other things, in their positions in the autonomy negotiations. Shamir pointed out that Mubarak emphasizes the rehabilitation of relations between Egypt and the Arab world, whereas As-Sadat regarded peace with Israel as his life's achievement.

Shamir stated yesterday that it is in Egypt's interest just as much as it is in Israel's to maintain peace. The question is what peace between the two countries will be like after April. He added that Egypt's and Israel's positions are symetrical: just as the Israeli public expects the government to insist on its positions in the negotiations with Egypt, but still to maintain peace, so is the Egyptian administration requested to adhere to certain positions in its contacts with Israel without causing bilateral relations to deteriorate.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said later on that relations with Egypt must be judged in a balanced fashion with full attention to the achievements made in this sphere so far. At the same time, he warned against a state of affairs in which the dispute over the demarcation of the international border with Egypt does not end by 26 April, saying that unless agreements on the borderline are reached, the relations between the two countries will be adversely affected. Simha Erlich, who chaired the meeting, reacted to the foreign minister's comments saying that Israel had established peace, but cannot determine its strength.

CAIRO SOURCES: 'ARTIFICIAL CRISIS' BEING CREATED

TA011434 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] Cairo sources expressed their opinion last night that Israel is deliberately creating "an artificial crisis" over the expected visit of President Mubarak to Israel in order to darken the atmosphere in the political process, and perhaps even to provide a pretext for a last-minute holdup in the evacuation of the Sinai. The sources emphasized that Egypt would not be dragged into any move that might help such a development occur. The official Cairo opinion is that Israel will withdraw on time and that the pullback should not be made conditional on bilateral relations between the two countries, including the question of the Egyptian president's expected visit to Israel.

Yesterday Mubarak dispatched messages to the leaders of West Europe whom he had visited during his latest trip abroad. This is in addition to the message transmitted to President Reagan by Ambassador Ashraf Ghurbal, in which he explained the latest developments in the political process, including his refusal to visit Jerusalem. It has been learned that an Egyptian economic delegation is to depart for Moscow this week to sign a trade deal worth $10 million. Part of the agreement will have Egypt purchase large quantities of wood and paper from the Soviet Union. Egypt has already absorbed scores of Soviet industrial experts who are busy completing the assembly of equipment in the heavy industry plants.

EGYPT SAYS VISIT TO JERUSALEM WOULD HARM PEACE

TA011540 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] President Mubarak's visit to Jerusalem will lead to a storm and will be exploited negatively by the opponents of peace in Egypt and in the entire world and will therefore ultimately harm the peace process to which Egypt adheres. This was the official Egyptian position that came to light at a meeting President Mubarak held with the Political Bureau of the Cairo ruling party as well as in the messages later sent by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister General 'Ali to the ambassadors of five West European countries which the president had visited in his latest tour. A similar message will be given today to President Reagan by the Egyptian ambassador to Washington.

Officials and the Egyptian media again refrained yesterday from directly commenting on the visit, but unofficially it has been stated that Egypt would not be dragged into the verbal confrontation which Israel is stirring up for no reason over the issue of the visit. It was further noted that the president still wants to hold a brief working visit in Israel soon, but that this should not include Jerusalem.

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT NEXT WEEK

TA011447 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 pp 1, 7

[Report by Semadar Peri, Arye Tzimuqi and Yehoshu'a Halamish]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has decided to advance his visit to Israel, and will thus arrive next week to try to find a solution to the crisis created around President Mubarak's visit. Yet another crisis might develop in Egyptian-Israeli relations because of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's announcement that he would station IDF guards on the 16 border points over which there is still a dispute between the two countries. Sharon announced that the IDF would not withdraw from those border points until an arrangement is found, even if the withdrawal from these areas is postponed until after 16 April [as published], adding that he would not capitulate to U.S. pressure on this. Sharon will meet with 'Ali next week to discuss this topic.

MUBARAK WILL NOT VISIT IN 'FORESEEABLE FUTURE'

TA012039 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] It is believed in Jerusalem this evening that the Egyptian president will not come to Israel in the foreseeable future. Our political correspondent reports that in last week's talk between President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Shamir, the foreign minister failed in his attempt to persuade the president to include Jerusalem in his visit to Israel. Egyptian sources assert this evening that President Mubarak will gain propaganda and political points if he does not visit Israel in the near future. Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that, officially, Egypt is claiming now that clarifications about the date and nature of the visit are continuing. But Egyptian sources say that the controversy about the inclusion of Jerusalem in the visit's itinerary will add to Mubarak's prestige in the Arab world, making a resumption of the dialogue with the Arabs easier for him.

NO MUBARAK VISIT, NO VISIT TO EGYPT SAYS BEGIN

TA011915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has declared that he will not visit Egypt as long as President Mubarak does not visit Israel.

He emphasized that Israel would not receive a guest who demonstrates against Jerusalem. In a meeting with members of the Jewish Agency board of trustees at the Knesset building, Mr Begin said he has been regretting As-Sadat's death and expressed his opinion that both countries may have reached more understanding had As-Sadat not been murdered. According to the prime minister, As-Sadat would not have hesitated to visit Jerusalem.

Begin stressed that Israel would fulfill everything stipulated in the peace treaty, down to the last point and expressed the hope that Egypt would do likewise. As for the measures adopted in the Yamit District by him and the defense minister, Mr Begin said that it had been one of the most traumatic events of his life. Speaking about Israeli-U.S. relations, Mr Begin said that the partnership between the two countries was not one-sided; Israel is not a beggar standing at the doorstep, it also makes its contribution. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reported on the prime minister's remarks.

BEGIN, SHAMIR, SHARON MEET WITH PHILIP HABIB

TA011836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] U.S. special envoy, Philip Habib, met today with Prime Minister Begin. Also taking part at the meeting was Foreign Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Sharon. Habib arrived in Israel yesterday from Lebanon, and is scheduled to go on to Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia before returning again to Israel.

Israeli officials say there is a mutual interest, not only of Israel and the United States, but of other factors in the Middle East in Habib fulfilling all aspects of his mission. This includes not only the continuation of a peaceful situation for Israel and Lebanon, but also the removal of Syrian missiles and a pullback of the PLO from southern Lebanon. Israeli sources believe that the ultimate aim should be strengthening of an independent Lebanon without Syrian or PLO presence. Israel's concern over the PLO buildup in Lebanon and terrorist attacks was stressed once again during Habib's talks with Israeli leaders.

Further Details

TA011947 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib has praised the Israeli Government for the restraint it displayed toward the terrorists although it had justification to operate against them in the last few months. In talks he conducted in Jerusalem, Habib noted that the terrorists violated the cease-fire several times in the last few months. He emphasized that terrorist infiltrations through Jordan or Syria also constituted a violation of the cease-fire. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned about Mr Habib's remarks from authoritative sources in Jerusalem.

Habib added that in meetings he held in the last few days in Lebanon he received the impression that all elements in that country want the cease-fire to prevail and, in his opinion, there is indeed a chance that this situation should continue. Habib believes that the chief problem in Lebanon is the Syrian presence and the Lebanese Government's inability to take control of the situation. Habib said that there is a legitimate government in Lebanon but it was not a sovereign one.

Habib promised he would continue to work for the Syrian expeditionary forces to withdraw from key points in Lebanon to enable the Beirut government to assume control of the situation. Our correspondent notes that in the current round of his mission Mr Habib will confer with government leaders in Damascus and in Jordan and with Saudi officials.

Habib Departs

TA020912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib left Israel this morning for Damascus. He will also visit Saudi Arabia before returning here. He made no statement upon departing, and his colleagues told the ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport that no substantial results have been achieved in his talks with the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister.

ARENS VIEWS U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, LEBANON

TA271100 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens by Shalom Qital -- place and date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Arens] I must warn you, first of all, that I am still in the learning stage. It has been only 10 days out of a relatively large number of days that I will probably spend working here. I have already had a large number of meetings, and I must tell you that the work here is hard, even exhausting. I think all the meetings -- starting with the president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense and senior officials in these departments -- were good meetings insofar as there was an openness in them, a readiness to exchange views, certainly a willingness to listen. And I think what it all boils down to is that, on the one hand there are good relations between Israel and the United States and, on the other hand, we cannot ignore a fact that is unavoidable even when relations are good: that there are also differences of opinion on various subjects.

[Question] What weight do you attribute to the President's commitments, to the warm words with which he addresses the prime minister in his personal approach -- dear Menahem -- or to you, when he speaks warmly and personally? And I am certain that the secretary of state also speaks to you in such a manner. What practical value to these things have? Does all this calm you?

[Answer] I do not know whether a practical value -- as you say -- can be attributed to these, but they do characterize the relations between Israel and the United States. They are unlike the relations between the United States and the rest of the world's countries. I think there is a very small number of countries in the world between which the leaders' letters open with their first names, or in which talks between an ambassador and a certain secretary of the country are conducted on a first-name basis. This is telling. This shows the quality and nature of our relations which, I assume, will not change quickly, if at all. But, as I told you before, this does not mean that there are no differences of opinion. The U.S. President may write: dear Menahem and sign Ron, but inside the letter it might nevertheless be clear that there is a dispute on a subject that may be very important to us.

[Question] Let us discuss this controversy, this important subject: the possibility of supplying sophisticated weapons to Jordan. When is this liable to happen? Is it likely to happen? What sorts of weapons are involved? How much is Israel going to struggle over this subject?

[Answer] I cannot tell you when this is liable to happen. In general, we were told -- and this is no secret -- that the United States, in parallel with its commitment to Israel's security, wishes to make additional friends in the Middle Ease, namely, Arab states. So far, there are actually no differences of opinion between us as we, too, prefer for Arab countries to be influenced by the United States, to have ties with the United States, rather than the alternative of having ties with the Soviet Union.

The controversy is over what the effective means are to achieve that goal. And, as is well known, and this was clear many months before I arrived here, there are people in the U.S. administration -- it may possibly even be said that this is the administration's present line -- who believe that the way to make those friends is through the sale of arms. Here too I would say it is not our position that the United States must not sell a single bullet or a single gun to an Arab state, but the dispute is over where the optimum point is -- what kind of arms and in what quantities. Between no bullets and guns and up to the most sophisticated weapons in the United States, and in large quantities, there is somewhere an optimum point. We believe the United States has already passed that point, in terms of the balance between the chance that these sales will indeed help obtain friends for the West, and the risk that those weapons are liable to be directed against Israel one day, or that those weapons are liable to undermine the delicate stability now existing in the Middle East.

[Question] Regarding the Israeli-Lebanese border, where there is a delicate stability, perhaps a too delicate stability, you are certainly aware of the strong apprehensions over the possibility of a conflagration there. When you speak, as you did yesterday with a number of senior U.S. correspondents familiar with events in the Middle East, and hint that the PLO may violate the cease-fire, the U.S. media's immediate interpretation is: Israel's ambassador in Washington is threatening a possible strike into Lebanon. You are aware of this, and you are also aware of a possible U.S. reaction. To what extent does Israel take the U.S. appeal for restraint into account?

[Answer] I think Israel is taking this appeal very much into account. It is even difficult to describe the extent to which Israel is taking this into consideration. After all, in Israel we know what the PLO is, and we know what the danger to us is when PLO forces are concentrated in southern Lebanon with their artillery pieces and rocket-launchers. We suffered losses as a result of the PLO's actions and use of these arms, and we know what the potential risk is from that huge stock of arms that presently exists. If Israel abstained from taking any action in that direction and if -- in regard to another subject -- Israel did not adopt any action against the Syrian missiles introduced into the Lebanese Al-Biq'a, then this, I would say, is almost exclusively due to a consideration of the U.S. position.

[Question] At this stage at least you are not being asked too much here -- and I think this is not incidental -- to talk about the future of the peace talks in the Middle East. Perhaps this is because the administration is worried about the future of these talks in their present state. Do you feel, or fear, or hope that the administration is preparing a different plan for after April?

[Answer] We have no reason whatsoever to think so at the moment; that is to say, nothing has been said that might indicate this. All that was said in the talks I participated in in Israel, as well as in my talks here, is that the administration is committed to the Camp David peace process, and to that process only. Hence, at this stage I do not think it is justifiable to fear that the U.S. administration would attempt to outline a different policy or try to act in a different framework, leaving the Camp David framework behind.

[Question] I think I may justly call you a hawk, a person whose political views are clear. You were a politician and did not hesitate to express your views. Is it easy to be Israel's ambassador in Washington with views such as yours, with a background such as yours?

[Answer] You know, I do not know whether there is an exact definition of a hawk. You will certainly not find it in any dictionary. You may, for example ask who is a hawk in the United States. It is customarily believed that the present administration is very hawkish, that the President is very much a hawk. I would say these are very similar to the hawks in Israel, like myself. In other words, first of all there is a great awareness of the Soviet danger.

It exists in my world conception today, and I believe it is at the basis of U.S. foreign policy today, at the basis of President Reagan's world conception. And there is a certain conservatism or tendency not to accept too great a risk. I believe this is characteristic of the administration's policy in its confrontation with the Soviet Union; this is also characteristic of my positions in the confrontation between Israel and the Arab countries. I mention this limitation because I think I can find here a common language with most of the people with whom I talk, even though our conclusions might not always be identical. So far, I must say I have been received in a proper and polite manner, even friendly I would say, by most of the senior officials I have met, including the President. And, by the nature of things, I would expect it to be easier for an Israeli ambassador to function here if his approach is hawkish in regard to those things I described earlier, than if his approach were dovish.

[Qital] Mr Ambassador, I thank you very much.

U.S. STATEMENTS ON LEBANON TO BE REFUTED

TA020537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] The differences between Israel and the United States on the terrorist buildup in southern Lebanon deepened still further last month. The U.S. State Department again warned Israel not to use force in southern Lebanon. This follows the submission of new data to the State Department by the Israeli Embassy on the influx of arms to the terrorists. According to the embassy data, since the cease-fire the terrorists have received another 50 long-range cannons as well as Katyusha launchers, tanks and Soviet-made patrol boats -- all with the financing of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

Last night Ambassador Arens visited the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and requested another meeting with Secretary Caspar Weinberger. In this latter meeting, the ambassador promised the secretary that despite Israel's skepticism and doubts about the U.S. policy, Israel is not attributing to Weinberger motives stemming from unfriendliness to either Israel or the Jewish people.

Jerusalem sources, however, have told our political correspondent that Israel intends to publicly refute the U.S. administration's statements -- particularly as Secretary Weinberger -- who had denied reports on the terrorist buildup. Our correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that in the talks U.S. envoy Philip Habib held with the prime minister, Habib expressed reservations about the U.S. statements, saying that they are probably erroneous. According to Israeli sources, he agreed with Israel's position.

Our correspondent has also been told that Israel will express amazement at Washington's decision to remove Iraq from the list of countries who support terrorism and by so doing allow U.S. firms to sell it sophisticated types of equipment. In the course of the talks with Habib, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said that Iraq countries to back many terrorist activities throughout the world. According to the U.S. administration's decision, the sale of engines for Iraqi patrol boats will still be forbidden, but it will probably be allowed to purchase freely L-100 aircraft, which is the civilian version of the Hercules plane, and other types of equipment.

DOCUMENT ON TERRORIST DEPLOYMENT RELEASED

TA021054 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by U.S. correspondent Yosef Pri'el]

[Excerpt] Washington, (exclusive for DAVAR) -- Air and sea lefts from Libya, South Yemen, Syria and Saudi Arabia have provided the terrorists with large quantities of new equipment, mainly long-range artillery and heavy weapons, according to an Israeli intelligence document distributed last night in Washington to refute U.S. claims that the terrorist deployment in southern Lebanon had not been reinforced.

According to the document, the terrorists in southern Lebanon currently have 135 cannons instead of the 92 cannons they had on the eve of the cease-fire in July 1981. The additional cannons are mostly 130mm. The terrorists have also acquired 155mm and 122mm cannons as well as 5 to 10 trucks carrying rocket-launchers.

According to the document, the terrorists have acquired 6 to 10 T-34 tanks, several T-54 tanks and two patrol boats from Libya. In this period, the PLO received $85 million in financial aid from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar. Israeli intelligence data also stipulates that the terrorists have brought a battalion from Beirut back into Fatahland and have reinforced their troops in An-Nabatiyah. During the same period, hundreds of volunteers from Libya, Iraq and South Yemen arrived in southern Lebanon to help the terrorists and the Shi'ite organization "Al-Amal" has been incorporated into the terrorist deployment in southern Lebanon.

SHARON COMMENTS ON LEBANON, TIES WITH FRANCE

TA021027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said in an interview broadcast in France that Israel has no intention of attacking southern Lebanon although it reserves the right to defend its citizens from terrorist attacks. Answering a question on whether Israel intends to attack the terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon after President Mitterrand's visit in Israel, Sharon said: We are looking forward to Mitterrand's visit with sympathy and friendship and are not waiting for him to leave in order to launch certain actions. Minister Sharon was interviewed by the Europe-1 radio station.

He emphasized Israel's displeasure with the fact that no condemnation could be heard about Syria's interference in Lebanon either from the United States or France. He added that Israel is completely sincere when it says that it will leave the Sinai by 25 April.

At the same time, some difficulties still remain, such as President Mubarak's refusal to come to Jerusalem. Sharon said we hope Cairo's intentions are equally sincere and it really has peace in mind.

Minister Sharon was asked whether Israel was interested in receiving a nuclear reactor from France like the new one promised to Iraq, and he replied that Israel very much wants to reestablish the kind of ties with France that it had with it in the 1950's and that it is hoping for cooperation in the industrial and research spheres. He stressed his hope, however, that France would not grant any nuclear aid to the Arab countries.

Government sources in Paris have told our correspondent that France does not intend to cooperate with Israel in the nuclear field as long as Israel persists in its refusal to allow international supervision of its activities. The sources pointed out that currently there is no agreement between the two countries, nor is there de facto cooperation.

CHEYSSON TO MEET MAYORS FROM TERRITORIES

TA011332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] In the course of French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel, External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson will confer with various mayors from the territories at the Franch consulate building in east Jerusalem. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Gaza Major Rashad Ash-Shawwa have already confirmed that they will attend the meeting. Nabulus Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf have also expressed their readiness to participate in the meeting. Difficulties were aroused today, however, in the wake of criticism leveled at them by radical circles.

MITTERRAND VISIT TO NOT INCLUDE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

TA011248 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by correspondent in France Gid'on Qotz]

[Text] Paris, (Exclusive) -- Despite the interest Israel has expressed in having a joint Israeli-French communiqu issued at the end of President Mitterrand's visit to Israel, no such communique will be issued. It will be impossible to formulate such a statement because of the fundamental differences on the solutions to the regional problems. Continuous diplomatic contacts have been conducted between Israeli and French representatives both on the statement and on Mitterrand's expected remarks in Israel. His Knesset address has been amended a dozen times already. Among other things, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche visited France and conferred with French officials on this.

HA'ARETZ OUTLINES MITTERRAND'S OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

TA281102 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 82 p 3

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife will arrive in Israel at noon on 3 March for a 3-day visit. They will be received at Ben-Gurion Airport by President Yitzhaq Navon and his wife, Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, Prime Minister Menahem Begin (if his health permits), Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other ministers. After reviewing an IDF honor guard, he will be welcomed by President Navon and Mitterrand will reply to his welcome.

In the afternoon the two presidents will meet in the presidential residence in Jerusalem. The president's wife, Mrs Ofira Navon, will hold a meeting in honor of Mrs Mitterrand with women active in the fields of politics and society, female Knesset members and heads of women's organizations. Afterward a meeting will be held between the president of France and Prime Minister Menahem Begin and in the evening President Navon will give a formal dinner in his honor in the Knesset building, attended by the entire entourage accompanying the president on his visit.

On the morning of 4 March President Mitterrand will host a breakfast in the King David Hotel, where he will be staying, for a Labor Party delegation led by the party's chairman, Shim'on Peres. After that he will visit Yad Vashem, accompanied by the president of the state, and will inaugurate a hall of remembrance to those who fell in the French resistance in World War II. From there he will go to the Knesset building to speak before a special session of the Knesset Plenum. At the end of his speech he will hear remarks by Prime Minister Menahem Begin and opposition Chairman Peres.

That same day President Mitterrand will visit Jerusalem's Hebrew University and will receive an honorary doctorate. In the evening he will hold a second working meeting with the prime minister, at the end of which a joint Mitterrand-Begin news conference will be held in the Plaza Hotel, which will serve as the press center during the visit and where 200 foreign correspondents accompanying the French president on his visit will be accommodated. That evening the visiting president will give a formal dinner in the King David Hotel in honor of the president of the state and government ministers. On 5 March the president of France, at his request, will tour the 'Akko Fortress and Kibbutz Lohame Hageta'ot, as well as the French Embassy in Tel Aviv. During the afternoon he will conclude his compressed visit to Israel. Before his departure from Israel an official parting ceremony will be held in his honor at the Ben-Gurion Airport, attended by the president and government ministers.

IDF PREPARES FOR LENGTHY STAY ON GOLAN

TA011642 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The IDF is preparing for a prolonged stay in the Golan Druze villages. This emerged from a briefing the commander of the Northern Command, Maj Gen Amir Drori, held with correspondents in the north yesterday. He said it is not yet clear how long the traffic limitations on the Druze villages will remain in effect. He noted that 250 Golan Druze are known to be hostile to Israel and are instigators. The security forces have their names. The meeting between the reporters and the general was the first since the travel limitations were imposed on the Golan. Yesterday was the first time reporters were allowed into Druze villages.

The IDF has set up temporary buildings where basic commodities are being sold to the Druze. Many Golan Druze use these IDF services, but some have announced that they would not be prepared to purchase foodstuffs from the IDF. Some 150 Druze have left for work in the Galilee and at the Hermon ski site with IDF permission. No religious or social boycott has been imposed on them. The Druze educational institutions are on strike, but groups of teachers arrive in the schools daily and mark attendance. These teachers have a secured Education Ministry salary.

The commander of the Northern Command explained to the Druze that the military government in the area is no longer in existence, but that the entire region was under direct IDF supervision. He added that no international body has expressed desire to visit the Druze villages. The meeting between the commander and the correspondents was arranged through the IDF spokesman, Brig Gen Ya'aqov Even, who responded to the reporters' request. They had complained that the soldiers manning the roadblocks stationed at the entrances to the villages were using violence against them. The commander met the reporters in a command room set up in the village of Mas'adah and reviewed the situation in the Druze villages. Following a short briefing in which Brigadier General Avigdor [no last name given] was also present, the reporters left for a tour of the villages. The general said that as far as he was concerned, the incident involving his subordinates and the correspondents was over.

The IDF officers who joined the tour did not interrupt the journalists' work, and they in turn learned for the first time that life in all the Druze settlements went on as usual. The three Druze inhabitants who had violated the limitations imposed by the IDF were tried in a martial court. One of them was imprisoned for 10 days, the second to 1 month and the third was given a suspended sentence.

The commander of the Northern Command also said that only 28 Golan Druze possess Israeli identification cards, whereas before the Golan was annexed hundreds of them held such cards. A large group of Golan Druze supports the proposal raised by Dr Nisim Dana, who is the director of the Druze department of the Religious Affairs Ministry, to effect a compromise that could result in the end of the Druze strikes. He proposes that the Interior Ministry guarantee that young Golan Druze would not be drafted into the IDF and that no Druze land would be expropriated on the Golan. The Druze would not be required to pay higher taxes than they had paid prior to the annexation and also that the inhabitants of the northern part of the Golan be given incentives like those given to inhabitants of border settlements. It has been learned that the Druze are torn in an internal dispute on whether or not to accept these proposals.

The RAKAH spokesman reported last night that the IDF authorities are asking the Druze residing in Mas'adah to obtain exit permits to leave the village from, of all people, Muhsin Abu Salah! He is being boycotted by the Druze for his sympathy toward Israel.

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS WEST BANK LEADERS

PM010931 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Feb-5 Mar pp 4, 5

[Geoff Aaronson interview with Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, and 'Aziz Shihadah, leading lawyer and Palestinian figure in the West Bank, apparently in Bethlehem and Ramallah -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Recently the United States held detailed meetings with a number of leading Palestinian personalities in the occupied West Bank in an attempt to create some sort of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue without that dialogue being directly with the PLO. AL-MAJALLAH correspondent in the West Bank, U.S. journalist Geoff Aaronson, met two of the leading Palestinian figures who met with U.S. officials and interviewed them to find out what is actually happening. These two personalities are Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, and lawyer 'Aziz Shihadah, a leading personality in the West Bank who has long believed in dialogue with the United States.

The following is the interview with Ilyas Frayj:

[Question] What is your opinion of Senator Percy's statement that there cannot be peace in the Middle East without the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Answer] I spent 3 and 1/2 hours with Senator Percy and I was very pleased with the results of the meeting. He is an open-minded person and realizes that there absolutely cannot be peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinians secure the right to establish a state of their own. He told us so. This is something new, and it shows courage.

[Question] Did Senator Percy mention the method he will pursue in order to achieve this objective?

[Answer] Politically it is unwise to quote a person who is not present, so I will not quote what he said or did not say.

[Question] After meeting Senator Percy you also met U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Does Haig share Percy's views?

[Answer] I consider my meeting with Haig extremely important. This meeting gave me the opportunity to explain our views, we the people who live in the occupied territories.

[Question] After meeting Haig you were quoted as saying that this was the beginning of a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

[Answer] I said that I hoped that the meeting would be the beginning of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, but I did not say that was actually the beginning. Why shouldwe allow Israel to monopolize the U.S. politicians, especially the senior politicians?

[Question] Most of the Americans and the Israelis consider you one of the "moderate Palestinians."

[Answer] The moderates are the most realistic people and the best negotiators.

[Question] Do you believe that there is an Israeli attempt -- with U.S. backing -- to encourage certain inside "Palestinian leaderships" to cooperate with the leagues which Israel has created in the villages?

[Answer] No, the leaders of these leagues are in fact puppets and traitors. They do not understand Israel's real objectives and intentions. Israel is not willing or ready to give an inch of the occupied West Bank or Gaza. Also it does not wish the Palestinians to obtain autonomy.

The Israelis want to continue to build Jewish settlements and impose their military rule on the Palestinians and they have only one policy, which aims at preventing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. They know that they cannot agree with Egypt on autonomy, for the Egyptian side is quite clear. It always says: "We do not own the West Bank and Gaza and therefore we cannot make concessions. We would like to negotiate with the United States and Israel on full autonomy and then submit the results to the Palestinians. If they accepted these results then we would welcome it, and if they they did not, then it would not be our business."

There is not much that Israel and Egypt can agree on regarding the principles of autonomy. If the Egyptians cannot accept the Israeli formula for autonomy which of us here in the occupied territories can accept less than the Egyptians would accept, unless the acceptance comes from the traitors and collaborators with the Israeli occupation authorities?

[Question] Do you think that the United States understands this point?

[Answer] They understand it to a certain extent; I have at least explained it to them myself very clearly.

[Question] Do you mean you explained it to Haig and Senator Percy?

[Answer] I do not wish to mention names but I have made this point clear to the U.S. administration's representatives. The United States does not have a clear policy on the Middle East as a whole. They say that morally they are committed to "Israel's prosperity and to defending it." This means that they are ignoring the other party (the Palestinians), or that they do not believe that there is another part. It would be naive of me not to say that the United States acquiesces in the Israeli actions in the occupied territories. They offer funds, arms, political support and the "veto" they imposed in the Security Council regarding the annexation of the Golan Heights. They voted in the Security Council in support of the resolution condemning the annexation decision. This was a token initiative on their part. But when matters reached the point of taking measures against Israel, they used the veto. And thus in actual fact the United States is protecting the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights. This is a very serious precedent which could be repeated in other occupied territories, which case the U.S. reaction would be similar to what happened concerning the Golan.

[Question] Therefore, you believe that U.S. actions since the annexation of the Golan could encourage Israel.

[Answer] Most certainly. The U.S. veto was like a reward for Israel.

[Question] Recently Israeli leaders have stated often that they are content for the West Bank to remain as it is today -- that is, without agreement on autonomy. Yet everybody says that the time factor is not in favor of Israel.

[Answer] No, I would say that the time factor is against us. I have always said this over the past 10 years; the time factor is working against the interests of the Palestinians, and if the status quo persists for another 10 years there will be nothing left for the Arabs to talk about in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Question] Maybe this is what the United States would like to happen.

[Answer] Maybe this is the easiest way for them to get rid of the problem.

[Question] Meetings held between U.S. officials and Palestinians in the West Bank have been strongly criticized in the past. Now to what do you attribute the absence of much Palestinian criticism of the recent meetings?

[Answer] The Palestinians have become more realistic since the visit of two former senior officials of the U.S. State Department, Harold Saunders in December 1978 and Alfred Atherton in November 1978. I would like to say that there will be absolutely no military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The only possible solution is a political one. The party that makes concessions is the best player in the political field. We Arabs were not clever enough in explaining our cause to European and U.S. public opinion. Israel was playing this role with much greater skill. The time has come for the Palestinian Arabs to shoulder fully the responsibility for their problems. The Arabs are not in a position to help us much. They might give moral and material assistance, but such assistance will not help us to live on the land under military occupation and will not help us to become free. The only party that can help the Palestinians is the Palestinian people and the PLO. Now there must be a new convention for the PLO and the Palestinian people. This convention must be diplomatic and not a nationalist convention, so that we will clearly explain our grievances to world opinion. The PLO has a holy task, which is to acquaint the world of the real dangers we are facing so that the Western countries will vote in our favor when our problem is put before the security Council, instead of abstaining. We are facing a political battle and not a military battle.

The following is the interview with lawyer 'Aziz Shihadah:

[Question] Ilyas Frayj said that the Palestinians in the West Bank did not criticize your recent meetings with U.S. officials as much as they criticized similar meetings in the past. Do you agree with this?

[Answer] The West Bank inhabitants now realize the importance of such meetings with senior U.S. Government officials. They know that such meetings lead to good results. Senator Percy made his recent favorable statements about the Palestine problem after his meeting with me. These positive results were the reason for the absence of attacks on the individuals who meet with U.S. officials.

[Question] What were the topics discussed during your meeting with Senator Percy?

[Answer] We explained to him the difficult situation we are facing because of the occupation. But the situation was different with [Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs] Veliotes. He explained to us briefly the policy which the United States has recently been pursuing on the Palestine problem. He said that they are now pursuing this policy more energetically than before. He also said that they are now discussing the issuance of a "declaration of principles" on the Palestinians which they had wished to discuss with the other parties before the assassination of As-Sadat. They are now relaunching this initiative. In fact we listened most of the time to what Veliotes had to say.

[Question] Is it possible to reach a good declaration of principles within the framework of the Palestinian autonomy provided for in the Camp David agreements?

[Answer] I cannot answer this question until I see the declaration. I asked Veliotes: How can you deal with the Jerusalem problem within the framework of Camp David? Jerusalem is not mentioned in the agreement. He replied: "But there is an exchange of letters on Jerusalem." I said to him: Well, let us wait and see this declaration. But any solution without Jerusalem will be absolutely no solution. If the United States or any other party comes forward with proposals for the cessation of arrests and of the annexation process in the West Bank then the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories will be optimistic that the PLO will be able to work creatively and usefully in the political field. I believe that the PLO must adopt a new method and a new stand in the political battle. The situation is fine if the PLO wants war, but it must adopt a different attitude if it wants to enter the political arena.

[Question] Was Veliotes' explanation of U.S. policy confined to the framework of autonomy as set out in the Camp David agreement?

[Answer] U.S. policy continuously follows the Camp David framework. We explained to Veliotes that the autonomy issue is worse than many people think. In fact there is no autonomy; there is actual, and not gradual, annexation of the West Bank on the basis of the status quo.

[Question] Do you feel that there is a certain amount of opportunism in the recent U.S. initiative toward certain Palestinian personalities in the West Bank, including yourself?

[Answer] We will not refrain from discussing anything with the United States if this leads to success in halting further Israeli annexation. The United States cannot exploit us. Indeed, we are trying to exploit them in order to stop the Israelis. If the Arab countries are in disagreement among themselves, what method can we pursue other than the diplomatic method? We are doing our utmost to help any party that wishes to solve the problem in a diplomatic and peaceful way. I personally do not believe that there is great hope in this way, but it is an open way in any case.

ARMY, PALESTINIAN STUDENTS CLASH IN RAMALLAH

NC021134 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Jerusalem, 2 Mar (AFP) -- Israeli soldiers today used guns and tear gas to break up a demonstration in the West Bank town of Ramallah by Palestinian students, protesting the closure of B'ir Zayt University. The worst of the army-student clashes occurred near the university, closed for two months on February 17, following earlier demonstrations. Troops were also dispatched today to disperse students gathering at a teaching school near the Kalandia refugee camp. The protestors were also proclaiming their support for the 13,000 Druze inhabitants of the Golan, in the third week of a general strike demanding the release of several of their leaders arrested for hostile opposition to the Israeli annexation of the Heights.

BEGIN, ELAT MAYOR DISCUSS EGYPTIAN BORDER

TA021035 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Elat Mayor Gad Katz conferred with Prime Minister Menahem Begin this morning and reported to him on the negative impression he had formed after his meeting in Cairo with the Egyptian foreign minister over the disputed borderline near his city. The meeting was held at the request of the Elat mayor, and he expressed satisfaction at what he had heard from Mr Begin.

SINAI BORDER DISPUTE MUST BE SETTLED BY 26 APRIL

TA021049 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Israel insists that the dispute over the demarcation of the international border with Israel be concluded by 26 April. In the absence of an arrangement on this question, Israel may not complete the withdrawal, claiming it was unclear up to which point it should withdraw. Sources in Jerusalem last night expressed the hope that the matter -- which is currently being clarified by experts between the two countries -- would be solved in the next few weeks. If the experts fail to overcome the difficulties, the politicians will have to get involved in the clarification process. Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali is scheduled to visit Israel within 2 weeks and will discuss, among other things the question of the demarcation of the border. 'Ali will conduct his meetings in Jerusalem.

OFFICIALS ADDRESS OAU MEETING, ISSUE STATEMENTS

SWAPO Secretary

EA271644 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 26 Feb 82

[SWAPO program]

[Excerpts] Comrade Peter Mueshihange, addressing the session of the OAU council of ministers in Addis Ababa, said contrary to a false sense of momentum and high expectations which the current Western diplomatic move on Namibia has generated, the objective fact is that the political situation in Namibia remains bleak.

Comrade Peter Muehsihange also said that SWAPO's assessment of the current Western proposals on Namibia is that they constitute a retrogressive step. This means that what the five have succeeded in doing with their diplomatic moves is simply to reopen negotiations on issues which have already been agreed upon as far back as 1978.

We are therefore appealing to the OAU to categorically reject these sinister attempts to deliberately complicate and confuse the proposed electoral process in Namibia in order to open up room for electoral manipulations and rigging. As Mwalimu President Nyerere of Tanzania has cautioned: The five Western powers should not be allowed to ask SWAPO to accept something that they themselves would not accept or do things which they themselves do not do in their own countries.

The Namibian people should be allowed to adopt a simple, clear and easy electoral system, the result of which they will honor and respect. Comrade Peter Mueshihange further stated that as the deceptive diplomatic maneuvers by the five go on endlessly, racist South Africa is busy stepping up its repression of our people's struggle for liberation.

It is our conviction that Pretoria is still using the negotiations in order to buy time to continue to prop up the puppet groups and institutions which it has created in our country. We do not foresee the possibilities for an immediate solution to the Namibia problem. And in the face of Pretoria's endless intransigence, the Namibian people have no other choice but to continue with the intensification of the political resistance and armed liberation struggle in order to frustrate the enemy's neocolonial scheme.

It is SWAPO's immediate strategic aim to render futile South Africa's efforts to consolidate the puppet groups and institutions in Namibia and it is already evident that [as] the political and armed struggles are being intensified in Namibia, the puppets of South Africa are finding themselves ever more isolated. Actually, the puppet show in Namibia has been thrown into ever worsening crises characterized by bickering, disagreements and public mudslinging.

Comrade Peter Mueshihange further said that in continuing with the intensification of the political and armed liberation struggle we are (?reinforced) in our determination by the awareness that the heroic people of South Africa led by the ANC are delivering telling blows against our common enemy.

The steady advance of armed struggle in South Africa is forcing the enemy to stretch its armed forces from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. SWAPO believes that the Western initiative negotiations will drag on before the final agreement on the implementation is reached.

In this connection it is important that SWAPO is not seen to be negotiating from a position of weakness. Our movement must continue to register on an even greater scale its military victories and demonstrate its capability and readiness to effectively tie down and sap the fighting will power of the enemy forces in Namibia.

Egyptian Statement

NC281635 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt delivered a statement at the OAU foreign ministers' council, in which it expressed its reservation on the way the council conducted discussions, the erroneous implementation of the system of procedures which did not consider the application of the provisions of the OAU Charter and the failure to satisfy the rules governing legal forum. Egypt also declared its reservation regarding any decision issued that fails to meet sound procedural rules, whether with regard to the majority in attendance or the majority required for making the decision.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of Ivory Coast today telephoned Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. They discussed the deteriorating situation the OAU is undergoing due to the division caused by the acceptance of the Saharan Republic as a member of the OAU. Dr Ghali affirmed during this communication Egypt's concern for the unity of the OAU and Egypt's eagerness not to allow any trends attempting to weaken the organization. He also affirmed Egypt's eagerness to have the African meetings held in line with the OAU's system of procedures and that the organization's goals and principles be respected. The foreign minister of Botswana, the chairman of the council, and the OAU secretary general announced they will present a report on the results of the work of this session to the Kenyan president in his capacity as present president of the OAU.

Saharan Minister

NC010932 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SADR] declared in Western Sahara by the Polisario Front guerrilla movement is ready for direct peace talks with Morocco, Saharan Information Minister Mohamed Ould Salek said here.

He was speaking after the close yesterday of a stormy meeting of the Organisation of African Unity council of Ministers at which the Saharan state was, in a surprise move, admitted as a member, prompting protest walk-outs by 10 OAU member states. "The SADR is ready to negotiate peace," Mr Salek said. "We believe that the day when Morocco agrees to negotiate, peace, realisable by peaceful means, will be close at hand." Mr Salek said that the Saharan state's admission to the OAU at the meeting, which he described as "historic", was a very important factor in favour of peace, in that it allowed Morocco to negotiate with a state recognised by the OAU.

Morocco's Tazi

LD011426 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 1 Mar (MAP) -- Mr Abdelhaq Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, stated here Sunday that the meeting of the ministers' council of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) currently held in the Ethiopian capital is illegal because the quorum, which means the presence of the two thirds of the pan-African organization members was no longer gathered. Mr Tazi made this statement after the withdrawal on Sunday of two other delegations -- Upper Volta and Liberia -- to protest against the presence of mercenaries of the so-called Saharan Republic. "More than 18 countries, in other words, more than the third required are outside the hall and according to Article 18 of the council's procedure regulation the quorum is not collected and the meeting is illegal", precised the Moroccan secretary of state who added that "the Council's whole decisions are consequently null and void". Another important fact, said Mr Tazi, no summit can be held until legality and legitimacy are restored within the OAU". Indeed, the delegations of Upper Volta and Liberia on Sunday made their way out of the conference's hall in protest against the attempt to admit the Saharan puppet state.

ALGERIA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HOLDS MEETING 28 FEB

LD011308 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Algiers, 1 Mar (APS) -- The Council of Ministers met on Sunday under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general. The council heard an expose of the prime minister on governmental activities. It adopted an ordinance the finance completing land 1982. [sentence as received] On a report from the minister of light industries, the Council of Ministers also drew measures aimed at improving the supply of building materials. Then, on a report from the minister of planning and land improvement, and following the government decisions to reorganize the national companies, the council decided on the geographical distribution of the newly created national companies' headquarters, taking into consideration first the care for improving land and then the economic and technical preoccupations of the production units. Drawing the conclusions of this programme, the president of the republic pointed at the necessity to working on the measures on the socio-professional plan as well as that of the administrative and financial decentralization.

MOROCCO

TRADE UNION STATEMENT CALLS FOR LEADERS' RELEASE

NC011713 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Rabat, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The Morrocan left-wing trade union, the Democratic Labour Confederation (CDT), has called on the government to free its leaders jailed in the wake of the food riots in Casablanca last June.

A statement dated February 7 was circulated to the press today, three days after Abderrahmin Bouabid, first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) -- with which the CDT is linked -- and two of his Politburo colleagues were freed in a gesture of clemency by King Hassan II.

The statement pointed out that a number of CDT leaders and officials, including five members of the Executive Bureau, are still in custody, along with other leaders of the USFP and the National Union of Moroccan Students. CDT offices throughout Morocco are also still closed.

With a view to "consolidating the home front to meet the challenges of Morocco's territorial integrity" (a reference to the Western Sahara dispute) the CDT also called on Prime Minister Maati Bouabid to "open a serious and responsible dialogue" on claims the union put forward last December.

SUDAN

BOMB EXPLODES NEAR SHAJARAH OIL DEPOTS 28 FEB

JN011806 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA) -- A bomb-laden car exploded yesterday near Shajarah oil depots but no casualities or damages were caused, an authorized source at the state security organ told SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) that the incident which took place yesterday evening was aimed at exploding the oil depots.

The same source has revealed and for the first time, that other two similar incidents were discovered at other two important sites but they were defused before their explosion. Their aim was sabotage and assassinations.

The security source announced that the explosive materials which were captured are of the same sort of those used in exploding the Chadian Embassy here last year. They are also of the same kind of those materials which were captured in Nairobi airport by the Kenyan authorities and which arrived from Addis Ababa. Same sorts were also put in the American Club in Khartoum to explode it but were defused.

The source said that the investigations conducted by the security organs showed that Libya and its communists are behind those explosions and that there is information pointing out that some other vital institutions were laid open to such acts but the security organs are proceeding to unveil all sabotage plans.

The security source added that the security organs were observing through all the past months and during the latest riots attempts of Libyan agents to instigate these riots.

Offensive attempts were taken to attract labour forces particularly in the sugar and textile sectors to these riots by establishing what they called popular committees but our honest workers rejected these attempts.

Proceeding from this, the security source said the saboteurs who are planning for such acts should know well that we are ready to defend ourselves with all the possible means, and we caution those countries around us which cooperate with those criminals that we can retaliate. The security source assured that this sort of act is out of our Sudanese values and traditions.

He further stated that had this bomb-laden car exploded the oil depots it would have killed a number of innocent people who are fathers, brothers, sisters or sons of those who had done this act. It would have also brought back the oil-shortage problem from which people suffered during the past weeks. The source hailed the masses to be on full vigilance in guarding the vital installations and to inform the police immediately with any suspected movement.

(SUNA) has visited the site of the event where it found the damaged car fragments distributed in a circle of 140 metres. (SUNA) also noticed that the plate-number of the car is not existing even among the car debris the matter that indicates it was taken off before the event. [sentence as received]

VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

AS-SIYASAH Interview

GF241711 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Feb 82 p 19

[Interview granted to AS-SIYASAH correspondent Babakr Hasan Makki in Khartoum by Vice President and Chief of State Security Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib -- no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The recent developments that followed the announcement of the economic austerity program continue to be analyzed and highlighted by the press. These analyses tend to show Sudan as passing through a difficult security period. Do you believe this unrest has influenced the security situation?

[Answer] I don't believe so. I want to stress that Sudan's security is sound, well established and based on the broad conscious masses who are aware of what is taking place inside and outside Sudan regarding economic changes and political necessities. In my opinion, what happened in recent days was that a limited group of known students wanted to express their opinion on a necessary economic measure in a clamorous manner not supported in any part of Sudan.

[Question] The dismissal of the first vice president and 22 senior officers from their duties was interpreted by the foreign press to mean division within the army, in what resembles a coup attempt. How true is this?

[Answer] The foreign press and, regrettably, some of the Arab papers resort to sensation without knowing facts or investigating the validity of what they publish. We hate to see our Arab press sink to that level.

[Question] It also was reported that the victims of the recent demonstrations throughout Sudan numbered 40 and not just 1. What is your comment?

[Answer] As I have indicated, hired campaigns enjoy their dreams and illusions. They imagine and talk about hundreds of tanks passing through the streets of the capital and thou nds of soldiers clashing with the people in Khartoum's streets. They talk about dozens of popular uprisings, as some people like to call them. They also talk about the hundreds of thousands of Egyptian soldiers guarding the capital and so on. It will suffice to mention the facts published and broadcast and these are known to all Sudanese. You yourself can find out from any source the truth of what actually happened and the number of victims.

[Question] Do you believe the Sudanese-Egyptian rapproachement has had a negative effect on Sudan's political and economic march in that Sudan has become somewhat isolated from other Arab states?

[Answer] I don't believe that at all. Praise be to Allah, we don't complain about any exclusion. Our stands on Egypt don't appear out of the blue. Our relations with Egypt are ancient and will never be against the interests of either people. Most of our Arab brothers appreciate that.

Concerning Sudan's stand on the Camp David agreements, this stand has been explained by the president on more than one occasion and we will not be harmed if the explanation is distorted or misinterpreted. We want to stress that Sudan's stand toward the Palestinian people's rights to obtain independence, to regain what was usurped from then and to establish their state in their own land is fixed and we will not bargain with anyone. This stand will not become a commodity to trade as some of our brothers here and there are doing.

[Question] How do you coordinate security with Egypt? Is it true that Egypt pledged to intervene militarily if serious unrest takes place?

[Answer] As you know, Sudan and Egypt signed a joint defense agreement committing the two sides to intervene against any foreign aggression that threatens either of the countries.

Before all this, I think you already know that Sudan had forces that participated in several Arab wars for the sake of pan-Arab commitments that Sudan has never relinquished. Egypt is not the last commitment.

As far as out internal security is concerned, however, our regular forces are capable of deterring anyone tempted to violate law and order.

Statement to AL-MADINAH

GF012046 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 27 Feb 82 p 1

[Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah dispatch]

[Text] Khartoum -- In a statement to AL-MADINAH, 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Sudanese third vice president and chief of security, said a new oilfield has been discovered in the Abu Jabirah area, western Sudan, which is producing 6,000 barrels a day. He said this is the greatest oil prospecting discovery in Sudan.

In answer to a question on the real number of victims in the recent disturbances and demonstrations in Sudan, 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib said: The figure reported by the media outside Sudan is exaggerated and completely incorrect. He said the true number of victims is five: two foreigners and three Sudanese. The Sudanese vice president added: No students have been arrested. The guardians of the students detained during the disturbances were called in and informed of the behavior of the students who were promptly released. There are no political detainees in Sudanese prisons.

The Sudanese vice president said there has been a great improvement in the economic situation, particularly following the success of the Paris meetings [in February 1982 when several countries agreed to aid Sudan].

The Sudanese vice president lauded Sudanese-Saudi relations and expressed his appreciation for the stand taken by the government of King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in supporting Sudan economically. He praised the constructive Saudi role on the Arab, African, Muslim and international levels.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CHAD 25 FEB

JN251520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) -- A cooperation agreement was signed here today between Sudan and Chad. Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak signed for Sudan and Yangalbe Passire, secretary of state of foreign affairs charged with cooperation, signed for Chad.

In essence, this agreement is a practical translation of what President Numayri and Chadian President Goukouni Queddei agreed upon during the latter's visit to Khartoum last January with regard to bilateral cooperation, reactivating it by establishing a joint ministerial committee.

This cooperation agreement provides for the establishment of specialized technical committees, particularly the establishment of a joint security and border committee.

Numayri Receives Delegation

JN271644 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri addressed a message to Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, in which he said the decisions and resolutions of the OAU and the OAU committees are serious and sincere efforts to solve African problems and to prevent foreign interference in the continent. President Numayri told the Chadian president that if Chad finds some of the Nairobi resolutions difficult, a dialogue and discussion may be opened in which opinions are expressed based on the experience of the Chadian leaders in their own country. A quiet discussion, the president added, will lead to sound decisions that can realize peace and security in Chad within the OAU aims.

At 1100 today, President Numayri received in his office at the people's palace the Chadian delegation under the Chadian minister of state for foreign affairs, who relayed a message from the Chadian president to President Numayri on the decisions issued by the special committee on Chad which recently met in Nairobi. The Chadian delegation arrived in Sudan 3 days ago and held meetings with Foreign Ministry officials to exchange and coordinate viewpoints in light of the decisions issued by the two presidents [words indistinct] and in accordance with the joint statement issued after the visit.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak.

TUNISIA

VISITING AL-QADHDHAFI GRANTS TV INTERVIEW 26 FEB

LD271026 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Tunis, 27 Feb (JANA) -- Tunisian television yesterday conducted a lengthy interview with the brother leader of the revolution covering a number of issues of interest to the future of the Tunisian Arab people and the Libyan Arab people and the common unionist struggle between them.

The leader began his interview by projecting the positive results of his visit to sister Tunisia. The leader described this visit as extraordinary because it has opened a new page and closed an old page unacceptable among brothers heralding a new era of developed relations on a strong basis whose foundation stone was laid during this visit in agreement with President Bourguiba when we decided yesterday that integration, and particularly economic integration, between the two countries should begin. He said: I consider this the foundation stone for Arab unity and for pooling Arab material resources to build an Arab force which we are fighting to accomplish.

The brother explained that unity is not a political action but a policy to serve those goals which benefit the ordinary Arab citizen, of which he has been deprived as a result of regional conditions.

The leader said: I consider the foundation stone for Arab unity to be the economic factor, particularly the economic integration which has now been determined between Libya and Tunisia. He added the enemies will undermine these trends because they do not want the Libyan and Tunisian people to utilize their joint potentials for common benefit that will serve the interest of the citizen in Tunisia and Libya.

The leader said: Despite the fact that I am very happy about this great step which has determined the economic integration between the two countries, I feel concerned, at the same time, that the enemy will strike against any joint action. It [as received] is the enemy of Arab unity, the enemy of the Arab nation, the enemy of the simple, ordinary citizen in Tunisia, in Libya and in any Arab country where it does not want the citizen to progress and achieve his humanity and to utilize his economic potentials and does not want that concord and affection among brothers in Tunisia and Libya to replace the decision which the enemy has sown. This is the responsibility of every Tunisian and Libyan citizen. They must lay in wait for the enemy's anticipated movements. We must be aware of the enemies.

The brother leader lauded the gratitude which the Tunisian people feel toward President Habib Bourguiba. He said the most dangerous thing is for the nation to be beset by the evil of ingratitude which is a serious moral ailment.

The brother leader added: I felt concerned on a number of occasions when I saw certain Arab peoples disregard those who deserve gratitude. I was extremely annoyed following the death of An-Nasir; since during the era of As-Sadat, there was disregard for An-Nasir and his great pan-Arab struggle, his bravery and efforts and his glorious history for the cause of the Arab man, the cause of Arab unity and liberation, the fight against colonialism, the raising of the living standards of the working classes, the narrowing of the gap between the classes, and his achievements on behalf of the workers.

The brother leader wondered how a great man can be forgotten once he is buried, while other nations are bragging and defying us, saying that they have not forgotten their great men whom they consider to be a part of their great heritage and are proud of their achievements.

The brother leader spoke about the political conditions and the extent of their influence on the relations. He explained that political conditions are playing a destructive role in the moves being made by the two sisterly countries, particularly in the economic sphere. He said the political changes which often occur should be put as far away as possible from every agreement and economic cooperation and coordination program between the Arab countries. I am against breaking off relations simply because a political problem arises between two Arab countries. This is a childish and irresponsible action. The severing of relations, the closing of borders, the cancellation and freezing of agreements harm the interest of the Arab citizen who did not lay down this wicked policy and did not participate in these political intrigues which undermine relations.

The brother leader explained that the politicians lose nothing by enforcing such a harmful policy, pointing particularly to the policy of Al-Hadi Nuwayrah, the former Tunisian prime minister, and its role in poisoning and undermining the relations between the two peoples in Libya and Tunisia. The leader said the policy of Al-Hadi Nuwayrah played a subversive role in destroying the relations. That page has now been closed and it has become obvious that the claims which "Nuwayrah" is making to the effect that Libya is exploring for gas in the Gulf of Qabis are unfounded. He said: We cannot possibly transgress against the right of our Tunisian brothers on land or at sea. In this connection, the brother leader announced that the International Court of Justice yesterday pronounced its verdict about the question of the continental shelf. The verdict showed that the Libyan dredger was not in the Gulf of Qabis, was not in the Tunisian continental shelf and was not even close to the Tunisian areas, but was inside the Libyan continental shelf and that all the Libyan demands were supported yesterday by the International Court of Justice. It said the Libyan stance was sound and correct and that the areas which the Libyan side considered to be the Libyan continental shelf area were confirmed by the court to be in fact Libyan and that the claims by Al-Hadi Nuwayrah were unjust and unfounded and their objective was to undermine relations between brothers and this nearly led to an attack on the Libyan dredger in Libyan territory which could have been met with force.

He stressed that we could not possibly have waged, under any circumstances, a war with our brothers for the sake of borders. We are advocates of Arab unity. War for the sake of removing borders is understandable, but not for the determination of borders because this is anathema as far as we are concerned. We are a pan-Arab unionist force.

The leader went on to say, therefore, that an ill intention to undermine the relations between the two countries has been proved. The action taken by Al-Hadi Nuwayrah throughout his premiership was a deliberate evil so that the Tunisian citizen would be denied the opportunity of working in Libya, of cooperating with his brothers there and of benefiting from the economic integration and cooperation. It has been proven that all the allegations Nuwayrah made are unfounded and untrue. It has been proven that the Libyan stance was sound while he was telling you not long ago that it was a Libyan aggression and that Libya wanted to wrest Tunisia's rights. Therefore, this was a deliberate political action which was bound to undermine relations. Indeed, it did lead to the undermining of relations and to the freezing of a number of joint agreements of benefit to the Tunisian worker and citizen.

The brother leader expressed his confidence that all the directives of President Habib Bourguiba in connection with the economic cooperation between the two countries will be carried out. He said President Habib Bourguiba himself yesterday decided that there should be economic cooperation between the two countries and that coordination should be introduced.

The brother leader went on: I am convinced that the men in Tunisia now are different from those there at the time of Nouira and that they are loyal in carrying out President Bourguiba's directives. And if they fail to do this, they will be answerable to the president and to the Tunisian people who now hear that the president has entrusted the authorities with the task of carrying out this program between the two countries...whereas in the past there was deliberate sabotage.

He said: I met yesterday with the Tunisian brothers and I told them: If you are really loyal to Tunisia, you have to be loyal to the implementation of this program between the two countries, for he who is loyal to Tunisia knows where Tunisia's interests lie. Tunisia's interest lies in Arab unity, in unity with Libya, in unity between Libya and Tunisia, in economic coordination, in fraternity, in the dissolution of all differences and the artificial borders between the two countries. He who is loyal to the Tunisian people really is committed to loyalty to Arab unity; and he who is loyal to the Tunisian people is committed to loyalty to relations with Libya because they serve the Tunisian people in the first place.

The fact is that Libya is a rich state with a small population; it doesn't need much. But in the final analysis, it needs the unity of all the Arab nation to stand up to the enemies. He stressed that the Tunisian people will benefit from such unity. He said: As a unionist, I do not speak as a Libyan but as an Arab unionist eager to ensure economic coordination and unity that will benefit the Tunisian people in the first place; for I am also keen to preserve the interest of the Tunisian people. And if I am not keen to preserve the interest of the Tunisian people as much as that of the Libyan people, then I would be a traitor to the cause of Arab unity which is my major preoccupation. If I have come to this place, it is only because I seek to secure Arab unity. I am the founder of a unionist movement and I have no other activity than the cause of the revolution and Arab unity and when one has such an aim as a major preoccupation, one can in no way be a regionalist. Therefore, I will not be just a Libyan or a Tunisian, but Libyan and Tunisian. Better still, I will be Libyan-Tunisian and Arab as well.

He said: Loyalty to the Tunisian people will lead to loyalty to economic linkage between Libya and Tunisia.

I believe that government officials in Tunisia are loyal to the Tunisian people and their major preoccupation is to resolve the economic problems of the Tunisian people. I am convinced that we have now found in Tunisia a very nice group whose hearts are open and who are loyal, with whom we can implement this program and toward which President Bourguiba yesterday directed them forcefully.

The brother leader emphasized that unity will be meaningless without economic content, without material unity that will create strength for the Arab citizen and free him from poverty and backwardness. Such unity will be just a demagogic call, without any other meaning. He said: I am against superficial unity, political unity and propaganda unity. I seek a unity that will free the Arab citizen from poverty and backwardness, a unity that will give him the material strength that will then strengthen him morally.

He added: I declare that the conditions are propitious, that Tunisia has no one else but Libya. It is lucky that Libya has an open heart and open arms, ready to forget everything and cooperate with its sister country Tunisia, because quite the opposite might have taken place. Libya, after the nasty experiences, could have refused to open its heart to Tunisia or to cooperate with it, all the more since Libya is a rich state without any problems.

But this is an historic occasion of which our brothers in Tunisia can take advantage. The opportunity of Libya, a unionist state, foregoing its regional interests for the sake of pan-Arab interests, this historic occasion should be used by the brothers in Tunisia to move forward toward unity between the two countries, even if such unity can only be achieved in the future. But we must strive for it every day with practical, tangible steps, with economic steps so that the Tunisian people may benefit from the Libyan unionist trend.

He stressed that Tunisia has nobody now but Libya. He said: So long as the Libyans extend their hands to you, this is an historic occasion and you should take advantage of it. Extend your hands youselves...all the more since we are just one people. He stressed that Libyan and Tunisian families are united families and united tribes. The brother leader gave many examples to this effect. The Tunisian people consists of the same tribes as the Libyan people: Bani Hilal; Bani Salim; the pre-Islamic Arab emigrations called Berbers; this means pre-Islamic Arab emigrations 5,000 years ago; there was also an emigration 10,000 years ago. These emigrations resulted in the ancient populations of North Africa. We are one people and Tunisia has no one but Libya, all the more since Libya is in a position to help Tunisia. Therefore, this historic occasion must not be lost. If, God forbid, the situation changes in Libya, it would be a bad situation for Tunisia and it would pose more of a threat to Tunisia than any other situation.

The brother leader added: Therefore, Libya can be profitable for Tunisia and it also can be harmful. The present period is a profitable one. Therefore, we must benefit from this period so that the Tunisian people may profit and consequently the Libyan people and the Arab nation.

The brother leader made it clear that the Western states are now striving to build an economic unity toward political unity despite their nations being different from one another, without being of the same origin or the same race. Despite this, they are marching toward a correct unity leading to the political unity of West Europe, on equal footing with and against America because they realize America's hegemony and that America has swallowed West Europe. Therefore, they want to build up a force for West Europe that will stand up on an equal footing with America, the Warsaw Pact and other pacts in the world.

The brother leader explained that Arabs should be ahead of them in taking such action because everything is now favorable for us to build up an economic linkage leading to future political unity.

The brother leader warned the Tunisian citizen that America is killing Tunisian olive trees because America is determined to invade markets, including the Libyan market, with vegetable and artificial edible oils instead of olive oil. By this, the cost of having olive trees in Tunisia will become more expensive for the Tunisian peasant than his income. The cause of this is America, without the Tunisian citizen realizing that America is fighting him and seeking to kill the olive trees.

The leader said America is a real enemy of the Tunisian people and a real enemy of the Libyan people, a real enemy for us all, and America is now leading the 10th crusade. In 1930, there was a provocative conference of the 9th crusade in Tunis where Christian youths from the estern states came out with red crosses and white clothes, challenging the feelings of the Arab Muslims in Tunis. But today, America leads the 10th crusade. The crusades have not ended between the Arabs and the West, and between the East and the West, between the Muslims and the West. They still go on but in a new style. The brother leader explained that we consider the American 6th Fleet invasion of the Gulf of Sidra and its threats to the Arab shores as part of the modern crusade.

He added: We know St Louis who led a crusade against Egypt and then led a crusade against Tunisia. The crusade movement reached Algeria in the era of Charles V. Despite the fact that the original aim of the crusades was to occupy Jerusalem, they realized that this region was their common enemy and that they had to bring it under control, from Algeria to Syria, in order to be able to control Jerusalem. If Libya falls, Israel will reach Tunisia and it will reach Algeria because after the fall of Palestine, Israel reached Egypt and after the fall of Egypt, Israel is now at the Libyan border, and if Libya falls, Israel will be at the borders of Tunisia and Algeria.

The brother leader said that the danger is now at the door of the Arab nation and there must be an Arab counteraction that builds up a material force to counter this hostile expansion and precisely the Zionist expansionism protected by an American umbrella.

He said there are people who believe that America might benefit Tunisia, but the fact is that America harms Tunisia because America seeks to set the Libyan people against the Tunisian people. The proof is that when the American aircraft carrier Nimitz attacked the Gulf of Sidra and we shot down one of their aircraft for the loss of two of our own, the carrier left the Gulf of Sidra and came to Tunisia. And we are now surprised to see that we were tricked by this American scheme. The objective of the scheme was for Libya to realize that the aircraft carrier that attacked the Gulf of Sidra was now laying anchor in Tunisia and that the Libyans would, therefore, become hostile to the Tunisians, saying: Is it thinkable that an Arab people should welcome an aircraft carrier that has perpetrated an act of aggression against us?

The brother leader said: I personally was expecting demonstrations in Tunisia against the American Nimitz aircraft carrier. I was expecting demonstrations the day the aggression against the Gulf of Sidra took place and I very much regret that demonstrations took place instead in Ethiopia where millions of people took to the revolution square in Addis Ababa, non-Arab people who were addressed by Mengistu and by myself, while no demonstrations took place in Tunisia, for example, or in Algeria, or in any other state close to us against the American aggression. Peoples in Nicaragua, in Central and Latin America staged demonstrations against the American aggression against Libya.

The leader stressed that this shows to what extent we have become submissive to the will of the enemy and to what extent the enemy controls us. By this action, America wanted to sabotage relations between the two countries and to set Libyans and Tunisians against each other, otherwise why should it have brought the aircraft carrier that committed an aggression against the Libyan people and against the Gulf of Sidra to Tunisia?

The leader emphasized that American provocations are continuing and they will try to sabotage economic links between us. The leader added: For example, the American charge d'affaires told us a story we want every Tunisian and every Libyan to know and hear. He said there had been thefts and an act of aggression against the embassy and against the homes of some Americans in a spate of robberies. He came to the Libyan Foreign Affairs Secretariat to complain about this. Then it happened that the people in question were allegedly workers, some of them from Tunisia and some from other countries. He meant people who were hungry and became morally weak and committed such acts. And here one can grasp America's poison against Tunisia because the American charge d'affairs said there was no need for an increasing number of Tunisian workers in Libya, and a growing number of Tunisian workers would mean a sharp rise in thefts and aggressions and they would tarnish Libya's prestige.

We told him: Where will Tunisian workers go if they don't come to Libya? To France, he said, which is responsible for Tunisia and in charge of Tunisian manpower. France deals with Tunisia and its manpower, the charge d'affaires said, and you can recruit workers from Egypt -- that was in As-Sadat's time -- and from other states instead of the Tunisian workers who have the French market. Naturally, the Libyan Foreign Affairs Secretariat threw him out and that day they closed their embassy and fled to Tunisia [as received], regrettably, as if they were friendly to Tunisia, when in fact they were plotting against the Tunisian people in Libya. Look at America's intentions.

The leader said America is still active, that its fleet will once again come to Tunisian harbors. This will be provocative toward Libya. It will mean to us that Tunisia is opening up its territories for aggression against Libya, while Tunisia would in fact be unaware of these colonialist intrigues. But we must be vigilant.

The leader said America has never been a friend to the Arabs; it is a real enemy, the creator of Israel. And Israel is a poisoned knife in the heart of the Arabs. And as long as America is allied with the Israelis, it will remain a real enemy of the Arabs. It must be confronted and stood up to, it must be deprived of everything. Even its goods must not penetrate the Libyan market, let alone its ships.

The leader added: My position vis-a-vis the superpowers is clear; I am not submissive to America or to any other superpower; if I was to be submissive, I would be humiliating the pride of the Arab nation.

The leader said: To us, revolution embodies and represents the pride of the Arab nation in standing up to the superpowers and to others. We strive for the unification of the Arab nation so that it may occupy its place deservedly and respectfully in the sun and on earth. But politically, the Soviet Union does not back the enemy, it does not back the Israelis and does not arm them. America arms the enemy and it is the real enemy of the Arab nation. The day the Soviet Union asks to set up bases in Libya or in the Arab lands, I will be the first one to stand up against it and then consider it an imperialist state. But we are friendly with the Soviet Union because, so far, we haven't seen anything harming the Arab nation, its respectability and independence.

The leader emphasized that America is the real enemy of the Arabs and that there is no economic benefit whatsoever for the Tunisian people from America. He stressed that America has a world military strategy aimed at securing control, at standing up to the Warsaw Pact, at entrenching Israel in the Arab world and at subjugating the Arab region.

The leader said America can in no way put forward a program or a cooperation plan that will benefit any of these peoples because any economic action by Tunisia will strengthen Tunisia and America is against a strong Tunisia because America is no friend to the Tunisians. America has interests and is a friend to its own interests; it seeks its own interests and control. We have had 20 years of cooperation with America and Britain without gaining anything but losing everything. He emphasized that what we built up through the revolution over 10 years was equal to our entire life before then.

He said America used to take our oil, to control our land by means of its bases. It used to set us against Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and our Arab brothers. This is America's policy, a superpower that wants to control.

The leader said: When the Soviet Union takes America's path, then it will become an imperialist state too, but I don't think the Soviet Union will make such a mistake, acting like America and reneging on the cause of peace and that of friendship with peoples.

The leader went on: The fact is that equating America and Russia and considering that cooperation with America will lead to some benefit means taking the citizen for a ride and belittling his awareness, because at this stage, America has a military strategy to secure control and to destroy the dignity of the Arab nation and its strength, and to sow the seeds of hatred. It is now sowing the seeds of hatred between Tunisia and Libya, and you must be aware of America. It suffices to say that America kills Tunisian olive trees and kills Arab citizens in Palestine and Lebanon.

The brother leader spoke of his impressions about the results of his visit to Tunisia. He explained that this time he has new impressions and he feels there are people who are committed to the implementation of President Bourguiba's directives with regard to the agreement reached and not as was the case in the past when Al-Hadi Nuwayrah was in office.

He said President Bourguiba has assured him of total agreement for the implementation of the economic integration and of abiding by it and that the General People's Committee in Libya and the Council of Ministers in Tunisia will meet every 6 months, alternately in Tunisia and in Libya to study all the issues concerning the achievement of integration between the two countries.

In his interview with Tunisian television, the leader said: I am reassured as to the agreement reached, the most important of which is the economic integration between the two countries, the periodical meetings between the General People's Committee in Libya and the Council of Ministers in Tunisia.

The leader enumerated certain fields in which economic integration can be achieved in both countries, stressing the importance of this unionist step.

The brother leader pointed to the scope of cooperation within the unionist framework between the two countries in the cultural and information field. In this connection, the brother leader revealed agreement was reached to open cultural centers in all major towns in the two countries.

The brother leader explained the tasks of the people's committees and the revolutionary committees. He said the people's committee is an administrative, executive committee which implements the resolutions of the people's congresses. The people's congresses are all the Libyan people affiliated with people's congresses through which they exercise power. When people's congresses and committees are formed, the country become a spontaneous jamahiri and a country of self-management; the government disappears as well as all the repressive machinery. This is the jamahiri society which the world will definitely become in the future. All conflicts now taking place are but foundations and preludes for the era of the jamahir in which the masses will triumph directly as the political system will have passed through the stage of monarchy in which the king owns the land and all those on it. These are things of the past. The existing kingdoms have now become ridiculous museums. The second stage is the stage of the republic when the masses are in a position to elect those who will govern them. As to the third and final stage, it is the jamahiri system in which the masses will govern themselves by themselves directly without any middlemen and without anyone deputizing for them; the masses will govern themselves by themselves through the popular congresses.

The leader added: Therefore, we have a people's congress in Libya. It means that the Libyan people are in the people's congresses exercising authority. The people's congresses have this authority which creates the people's committees to execute their resolutions. Therefore, the people's committee is an administrative executive committee and not a terrorist committee or even a political one.

The leader said the revolutionary committees are the living and driving force in these structures. It is they which advise, steer and urge the people's administration.

The brother leader explained that the revolutionary committees do not exercise authority, but their aim is that the masses exercise authority. They are different from all parties. The parties in Tunisia may be seeking to reach power to serve the people; but the revolutionary committees are not allowed to exercise authority. Their task is totally different. Therefore, there is nothing to prevent all Tunisian youths who wish to join this or that party from forming a movement for revolutionary committees at schools, in the institutes, colleges, factories, the mass institutions and anywhere where a revolutionary committee can be formed from the live forces which believe in the post-Marxist and post-capitalist theory, and in the establishment of a jamahiri society. Everyone who believes in a jamahiri society and wants this to be realized can form a revolutionary committee and drive matters in this direction.

The brother leader added that this system is a long-term one. It does not happen today or tomorrow. He said it would be better if this action is authorized and is public and legal so that everything is in the open and not underground because if they are not authorized, the revolutionary committees might go underground to operate. This is a grave matter. Let everything be democratic and clear. The truth is that I call on the Tunisian revolutionary youths to form revolutionary committees. I submitted this at the highest level. We discussed this question and they said we did not even know the difference between the revolutionary committee and the people's committee and now it has become clear to us what is the revolutionary committee and what is the people's committee.

The brother leader said there is material that can be included in radio programs to explain these things. On our part, our country is opened to Tunisian literature and to President Bourguiba's works and speeches and to the Tunisian papers. We are one people, one nation, there is nothing different between us.

The brother leader expressed satisfaction with the unionist results achieved by his visit to Tunisia and the future scope which will be made available in the interest of and of benefit to the two fraternal peoples.

He said over 60,000 Tunisian workers in Libya will feel happy about what we have achieved.

In conclusion, the brother leader expressed his pleasure at this visit which enabled him to talk to his Tunisian brothers and sisters so that they will comprehend things which they did not comprehend in the past. He said: I introduced them to this new stage and new era between the two countries and I hope that this also will be achieved with Algeria and Morocco and with all Arab countries.

TAP DESCRIBES AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH LIBYA

LD011642 Tunis TAP in English 1428 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Tunis, 1 Mar (TAP) -- Libya's head of state paid an official visit to Tunisia from last Feb 29 to 27 [as received] at the invitation of Tunisia's President Bourguiba.

During this visit, both sides decided to set up a joint committee which will meet once every six months in Tunis and Tripoli in turn under the chairmanship of Tunisia's premier and secretary of Libya's General People's Committee.

As regards the economic field, both sides decided to work for economic complementarity through coordination between the two countries' plans of social and economic development and the promotion of sectors like agriculture and electricity in order to meet the two countries' needs.

They also agreed to promote bilateral trading exchanges by granting priority to the importation of goods from the two countries and by deciding upon preferential tariff measures ensuring free circulation of goods.

Tunisia and Libya also agreed to facilitate the entry of both countries' citizens in Tunisia and Libya by granting entry visas at the air, sea and land access points.

Both sides also undertook to facilitate the travelling and use of labour in the two countries. The jamahiriyah promised to grant priority to Tunisian labor.

In matters of education, both sides agreed to prepare and implement practical methods aiming to standarize gradually teaching programmes in the two countries. As far as the political field is concerned, Tunisia and Libya stressed the need to coordinate stands with respect to mutual interest questions.

At the end of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia, the two countries also concluded a draft agreement in matters of economy, industry, culture and information.

In his interview with Tunisia's TV, Libya's head of state said he was trustful as regards the implementation of bilateral agreements and stressed the possibilities of complementarity provided to the two countries, like the creation of joint factories for the manufacture of cars, textiles, the lead of electrical networks, the strengthening of cooperation in the field of information and the creation of cultural centres in the main cities.

"I am convinced," he added, "that the 60,000 Tunisian workers living in Libya will be satisfied with our decision to work for the suppression of visas and even passports and leave the identity card to enable Tunisian citizens to go to Libya and the jamahiriyah to promote Tunisian tourist trade."

In conclusion he expressed satisfaction at this visit and expressed the wish to see contacts between the two countries' leaders go on.

WESTERN SAHARA

ABDELAZIZ CABLES CASTRO ON OAU MEMBERSHIP

LD011104 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front and chairman of the SDAR Revolution Command Council, has sent a message to Maj Fidel Castro, president of the Republic of Cuba's Council of State and the present chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He underlined the SDAR's adhesion to the OAU as a full member, saying this openly and finally established the legitimacy of the heroic struggle of the Saharan people and its representatives -- The SDAR Government and the Polisario Front.

Abdelaziz stressed that the SDAR rigorously respects the OAU Charter and appeals to nonaligned countries and to all peace and freedom-loving forces to exert efforts to make Morocco and the United States heed the voice of reason and halt their aggression. The SDAR also aspires to occupying a place at the United Nations.

ETHIOPIA

MINISTRY CONDEMNS ARAB LEAGUE INTERFERENCE

EA011852 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Ministry today condemned the Arab League for attempting to destroy the historical unity of the people of Ethiopia and the country's territorial integrity and for violating the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Socialist Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry made the condemnation in connection with the recent Arab League statement aimed at spreading the bankrupt, false propaganda of secessionist bandits.

Noting that the Arab League has interfered repeatedly in the internal affairs of socialist Ethiopia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned such interference. In spite of the Ethiopian Government's repeated reminders to the Arab League to stop its sinister deeds and despite its strong condemnation of the Arab League for interfering in the internal affairs of the country, the Arab League has, in collaboration with international imperialism, continued with its anti-Ethiopia outcry.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said the meddling made a mockery of cooperation between Africa and the Arab countries. The spokesman explained that an organization which has become the tool of certain reactionary Arab governments subservient to imperialists and which have denied their own peoples their legal rights cannot teach others about self-determination.

The Arab League Secretariat knows nothing about history; the Secretariat should be aware that no people of any Ethiopian region has ever been Arab or ever will be. The Eritrean administrative region is no different from the other administrative regions, the spokesman added.

The spokesman said the Arab League Secretariat cannot attempt to give advice to a sovereign, independent African country, let alone condemn it. The spokesman said Ethiopia, which has protected its unity and independence for centuries, is not governed by the Arab League, adding that the Arab League would do better to concentrate on Arab League affairs.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Ethiopia is a country which can govern itself without any interference whatsoever from other quarters. Ethiopia does not need any advice or assistance from a weak organization which has divided the Arab world and betrayed its cause.

The spokesman said the right to self-determination should not be used as an instrument to further the sinister designs of expansionist reactionary regimes and neocolonialists. The people of the Eritrean administrative region, who are divided into eight nationalities, have always fought against foreign invaders and, therefore, cannot be regarded as non-Ethiopians. The geography, history and culture of the Eritrean administrative region are the same as the history, culture and geography of the other Ethiopian regions. It is foolish to allege that Ethiopia would use a weapon of which it has itself been a victim. Ethiopia respects and abides by international obligations and does not possess and never will possess the weapon it is claimed to be using.

The spokesman said socialist Ethiopia reminds the Arab League and its reactionary members to stop meddling in the domestic affairs of Ethiopia and to prevent friction between the continental organizations of Africa and the Arab world. The spokesman added that if the Arab League Secretariat refuses to listen to this reminder, Ethiopia will be compelled to reexamine its policies regarding the Arab League in particular and the Middle East in general.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ANNOUNCES ARMY PROMOTIONS

EA012130 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] today promoted six senior officers who have greatly contributed to the preservation of the country's unity, territorial integrity and the revolution. Accordingly, the following promotions have been made in the revolutionary army.

1. Comrade Brig Gen Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC Standing Committee member, defense minister and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee member, is promoted to the rank of lieutenant general;

2. Comrade Brig Gen Haile Giorgis Habte Mariam, armed forces chief of staff and CPOWE Central Committee member, is promoted to the rank of major general;

3. Comrade Col Gebreyes Wolde Hana, head of the main political department of the socialist Ethiopia Revolutionary Army and COPWE Central Committee member, is promoted to the rank of brigadier general;

4. Comrade Col Abdullahi Umer, commander of the "Mekit" Force, is promoted to the rank of brigadier general;

5. Comrade Col Getachew Gedamu, deputy commander of the Eastern Command, is promoted to the rank of brigadier general;

6. Comrade Col Husein Ahmed, deputy commander of "Wukaw" Force, is promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

KENYA

BRITAIN'S LORD CARRINGTON ARRIVES FOR TALKS

EA271915 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] The British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Lord Carrington, has arrived in Kenya for a 5-day official visit. The British foreign secretary arrived into the country from Zimbabwe and was met by the minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouka; an assistant minister for foreign affairs, Mr Kamwithi Munyi; the British high commissioner to Kenya, Mr Williams; Kenya's high commissioner in London, Mr Kiplangat; the acting chief of protocol, Mr Denis Afande; the director of aerodromes, Mr Kipanui; and other government officials. Lord Carrignton is in Kenya at the invitation of the minister for foreign affairs, Dr Ouka. It is a return visit to one made by Dr Ouka to Britain in May last year.

On arrival, Lord Carrington was briefed by Dr Ouka on last night's hijack drama at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where Dr Ouka acted as a negotiator with the hijackers to save the lives of the passengers. Later Lord Carrington left for Keekorok Lodge for game viewing. During his stay in Kenya, the British minister will hold talks with government officials on bilateral matters.

MOI CAUTIONS AGAINST DISCREDITING GOVERNMENT

EA261610 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today cautioned those who discredited the government by distorting his well-intended instructions that they are risking severe punishment.

He said he was no longer going to flirt about with those people, adding that his persistent preaching of peace, love and unity had been misinterpreted by a few people to mean weakness.

Noting that his preaching about peace, love and unity for the last 3 years had not been heeded by some people, the president said that it was time for him to take swift and stern action against those who did not toe the line.

The president pointed out that when he recently advised that squatters living along the forests be involved and integrated in the rehabilitation program, some people went as far as chasing away those squatters. The president wondered why people should be chased from where they earned their livelihood. Some of those people, the president went on, even chased away cattle, and he wondered whether even cattle were involved in felling trees.

The president was addressing a delegation from Baringo District which called on him at his Kabarak home led by an assistant minister for cooperative development, Mr Henry Cheboiwo, who is also the MP for Baringo North.

He pointed out that he was the only ruler in Kenya, and that nobody should claim that he was helping him to rule. He said other leaders should help the people to uplift their living standards, but should not claim that they were helping him to rule. He added that ruling was his responsibility. President Moi further cautioned that he could never compromise with anybody as far as the welfare of the people was concerned.

UGANDA

OBOTE RECEIVES SUDANESE ENVOY, PAPAL OFFICIAL

EA011610 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] The Sudanese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, has called on President A. Milton Obote in his office in Kampala and delivered a special message to him from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri of Sudan. The president was happy with the contents of the message and then discussed matters of mutual interest between Uganda and Sudan with the ambassador. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for defense, Mr Peter Otai, who is also acting minister of state for foreign affairs.

The president has also received in his office the papal pronuncio, who has also been the doyen of the diplomatic corps, Archbishop Lemaitre. The archbishop was taking leave of the president on the conclusion of his mission to Uganda after 6 years of service. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for defense holding the portfolio of the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs, and senior government officials.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MLPC CHAIRMAN PATASSE RETURNS TO BANGUI

AB010852 Paris AFP in French 0719 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Bangui, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Ange Patasse, chairman of the Central African People's Liberation Movement [MLPC], returned to Bangui late Saturday afternoon after about 2 months stay in France. On arrival, Mr Patasse immediately went to his residence on the capital's outskirts. The return of the leader of the MLPC to the CAR did not cause any demonstrations either at the airport or in the capital, it was stated in Bangui on Sunday.

CHAD

FAN TO RESPECT UNILATERALLY OAU CEASE-FIRE

AB261748 Paris AFP in French 1713 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (AFP) -- The FAN of Chadian former Defense Minister Hissein Habre promised to unilaterally respect the cease-fire called for by the OAU on 11 February 1982 and scheduled to become effective on 28 February. According to a statement signed by FAN Vice President Idris Miskine and handed to the press in Khartoum on Friday, the FAN favorably welcomes the efforts being made by the OAU and some African countries in order to restore peace in Chad. The statement adds that the FAN "totally agrees with the OAU resolutions on Chad and is willing to contribute to their implementation."

GOVERNMENT TROOPS CIRCLE TOWN CAPTURED BY FAN

AB281024 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 Feb (AFP) -- According to reliable sources in Ndjamena on Sunday, government forces have surrounded the town of Oum Hadjer, in eastern Chad, which they lost last Thursday to the FAN 4 days after capturing it. Col Abdelkader Kamougue's Chadian Armed Forces, which fought alone in the Oum Hadjer battle, received reinforcements from the soldiers of the Democratic and Revolutionary Council and President Goukouni Oueddei's Popular Armed Forces, the same source adds.

All information coming from eastern Chad shows that the Ndjamena authorities do not intend to respect the cease-fire set for midnight, 28 February, by the OAU. Besides, this decision was rejected officially by President Goukouni during the meeting of the OAU permanent committee on Chad on 11 February in Nairobi. Oum Hadjer has become a major obstacle in the control of eastern Chad. It constitutes the real strategic point in this region whose main town, Abeche, presently in the hands of Hissein Habre is only 150 kilometers away. It is alleged that the FAN has strengthened its military potential there [words indistinct], according to sources in Ndjamena.

Nothing on the military situation at Oum Hadjer has been published yet in the Chadian capital. However, the two Chadian medical teams sent to eastern Chad last week have requested the urgent dispatch of medicines to treat the "many wounded people," official sources state. The Chadian medical center for the east has been set up at Ati, 170 km south of Oum Hadjer, the same source adds.

BENIN

SOVIET AMBASSADOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 23 FEB

AB251125 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] A press conference was held yesterday at the residence of the Soviet ambassador in Cotonou. His Excellency Vitaliy Agapov met with the press to discuss current world issues. Before this, he talked about the recent 26th CPSU Congress. Comrade Agapov said this congress was attended by a record number of political parties from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. To prove his statement, the Soviet diplomat said the congress was attended by (?823) political parties from 109 countries.

Concerning the work of the congress, the ambassador said that it had a two-fold importance: First, it was important for the Soviet people who thus took a new step in their march toward the building of socialism in the Soviet Union; and second, it was important for the international community because it contributed to the development of peace through its analyses, decisions and proposals aimed at eliminating the threats of war and at strengthening international security.

The ambassador also talked about his country's economy. The major Soviet economic development projects, he said, are being successfully implemented despite some difficulties. In this regard, Comrade Agapov cited the drought problem. Despite this calamity, he added, Soviet agriculture is doing well.

Referring to the malicious comments by some Western news media concerning the so-called galloping inflation affecting the Soviet economy, Comrade Agapov said all this is pure falsehood. To confirm this statement, the ambassador cited two examples of essential commodities whose prices have remained stable for many years -- meat and bread.

GHANA

FOREIGN SECRETARY OUTLINES REFORM PROGRAM

EA251956 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Ghanaian secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Assamoah, has said that the new Ghanaian administration has pledged to undertake a program of economic, social and political reform aimed at radically transforming the Ghanaian society.

Speaking at a press conference in Addis Ababa today, Dr Assamoah said that the last government of Hilla Limann had demonstrated a chronic incapacity to come to grips with the country's economic, social and political problems. He charged that members of the ousted government and activists of the party that put them into power were engaged in massive corruption and had obtained fraudulently vast sums running into millions of dollars from prospective investors. Dr Assamoah also charged that the few commodities that were being produced were monopolized and sold by members of government and party at very fantastic prices.

The new government, he said, is all set to wipe out completely bribery and corruption to pave the way for a more judicious and prospective use of the country's scarce resources. Dr Assamoah said that his government will remain nonaligned, but shall resume a forefront position in the struggle against colonialism and racism. It will also strive in concert with developing countries for a more equitable international economic order.

INTERIM NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL APPOINTED

AB011546 Accra Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] An interim national health council, which will advise the government on restructuring of the health services to benefit all Ghanaians, has been appointed. This was announced by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] secretary of health, Lt Col Twum-Ampofo, at a news conference in Accra today. The 14-member council is chaired by the secretary himself.

Col Twum-Ampofo said it is the aim of the PNDC to make primary health care the bedrock of the nation's health services. In this respect, every Ghanaian is being asked to seriously get involved in his own health care in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. There would be decentralization of the health services in regions and districts, while the district would be the basic unit of the administration of health services. Col Twum-Ampofo said for the success of the decentralization, there would be orientation and redeployment of the health services personnel to make the districts and regions self-sufficient.

According to the health policy, new private practices by all health care practitioners, including doctors, midwives and pharmacists, would be redirected and relocated to serve the need of the majority of the people and private practice by health workers in public service is prohibited. The new policy, Col Twum-Ampofo said, will arrange for the development of safe water supply, improvement of food, hygiene and environmental protection. He gave the assurance that the government will reexamine the procurement, distribution and retail of drugs and other health supplies so that no one is left out. He added that guidelines for the implementation of the health policy would be issued soon.

PNDC MEMBERS INAUGURATE POLICE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AB251939 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Rev Dr Damuah, has asked all Ghanaians to regard themselves as soldiers and ambassadors of the country in the holy war. They should therefore let revolutionary zeal and dynamism reflect in the way they think, act and work. The Rev Dr Damuah was speaking at the inauguration of a 17-member people's defense committee at the headquarters of the people's police in Accra today. He asked the defense committee to work toward a democratic government which will make room for criticism without molestation.

Another member of the PNDC, Amatei Kwei, said the revolutionary policeman will not be an instrument of oppression but of perfection. He called on both senior and junior officers to give of their best. Mr Kwei made a special appeal to the senior officers to arrange better working conditions for the other ranks. He said they can set an example by relinquishing some of their own fringe benefits, like official cars, bungalows and expensive furniture.

The secretary for internal affairs, Johnny Hansen, said although there are areas of authority within the police service, the junior ranks should not allow themselves to become slaves to the system. He asked them to be courageous in exposing all irregularities in their system.

GUINEA

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN OAU

AB021018 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, Mar 2 (AFP) -- Guinea has decided to suspend all participation in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) until the situation arising from the admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] to the OAU council of ministers last week is "clarified", radio Conakry monitored here reported today.

Guinea was one of 19 states which walked out of the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa when a place was alloted to the SDAR, the state formed by the Polisario Front fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara. The SDAR is recognised by 26 of the OAU's 50 members but has not been formally admitted by a summit of the pan-African body.

A communique read by Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Toure said that, "faced with the abuse committed by some African states" over the Saharan state at the Addis Ababa meeting, Guinea was "suspending all participation in the OAU until (there is) the clarification that the African situation demands."

It added that the decision to admit the SDAR was "illegal, irregular and clearly violates the charter and spirit" of the OAU. The organization's chairman -- Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi -- has an overriding duty to declare the decision null and void, it said.

The Guinean Government and ruling party communique called on all states wishing to maintain African unity to "strongly denounce the violation of the OAU charter" by the 38th ministerial meeting.

The communique also called on states to suspend their role in OAU activities "until the restoration of order guaranteeing the respect of the organization's principles, the safeguard of its dignity and the international prestige of the African Continent."

It congratulated those states which walked out of the proceedings in protest at the seating of the Saharan state for having "courageously assumed the defence of truth, justice and the honour of the people of Africa" and called on them to stay firm in the face of "the enemies of African unity".

NIGER

COMMUNIQUE SAYS RELATIONS WITH LIBYA RESUMED

AB011250 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] We open this newscast with this important government communique:

Effective today, 1 March 1982, the government has decided to put an end to the suspension of diplomatic relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

ANGOLA

DPRK ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LUANDA

AB251228 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] A delegation from the DPRK led by the vice minister for external economic affairs, Chon Il-chun, yesterday arrived in Luanda for a visit to the People's Republic of Angola. Speaking on his arrival at the 4 February International Airport, Chon Il-chun stated that during his stay to our country, he will hold talks with Angolan authorities in economic, technical and scientific fields, in accordance with the established talks between Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Kim Il-song, during the previous visit of the Angolan head of state to the DPRK last year. The vice minister of external economic affairs of Korea and his delegation were received at the airport on their arrival by the Angolan secretary of state for cooperation, Paulino Pinto Joao, the ambassador of Korea accredited to the People's Republic of Angola [words indistinct].

MOZAMBIQUE

ARMED FORCES CLASH WITH 'BANDITS' IN SOFALA

EA272100 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Mozambique Armed Forces last Thursday killed five members of the armed bands controlled by the Pretoria regime [words indistinct] as they were trying to attack and ransack Gorongosa village in Sofala. During the fighting, our armed forces wounded several other bandits. They captured various types of guns and ammunition for machineguns, rockets, mortars and bazookas. The prompt intervention of the Mozambique Armed Forces confused the bandits. They fled in a civilian vehicle with which they evacuated their wounded.

GOVERNMENT TO ARM CITIZENS IN INHAMBANE PROVINCE

EA270009 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1900 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Maputo -- The Mozambique Government is to arm the people living in the towns and villages of the northern part of Inhambane Province, which has been affected by the activities of armed bandits of the South African based Mozambique National Resistance. President Samora Machel announced this yesterday while visiting Nova Mambone and Vilanculos towns in Inhambane, 700 km north of Maputo. Earlier, in the provincial capital, Inhambane City, he told a meeting of the provincial government that the (?motion) of the enemy implied the existence of a conflict of economic and ideological systems.

BULGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES 27 FEB

EA271820 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] A Bulgarian Socialist [as heard] Party delegation arrived in Maputo this morning. The delegation will hold talks with Frelimo, at the end of which the two parties are expected to sign a cooperation agreement. The visitors will remain in Mozambique for 4 days. On their arrival, the delegation was received at the airport by the chief of the Department of the Party Central Committee for Ideological Work, Jose Pascoal Zandamela.

ZAMBIA

MINISTRY CITES 'SERIOUS INCIDENT' AT ZAIRE BORDER

CA020712 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that a serious incident has occured on the Zambia-Zaire border. The incident involved the violation of Zambian territorial integrity and the exchange of fire between the Zambian and Zairean security forces and the abduction of seven Zambian nationals into Zaire. Initial reports indicate that Zairean troops mounted a road block on the Ndola-Mufulira road and forced a United Bus Company of Zambia bus [word indistinct] and its passengers and a contract haulage truck carrying 500 bags of mealie meal to be diverted into Zaire. The Government of the Republic of Zambia views this incident with the gravest concern and [word indistinct] the government has immediately instituted thorough investigations. In the meantime, the government assures the people on the border to remain calm [as heard] as the situation is firmly under control.

ZIMBABWE

DEMONSTRATION DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST NKOMO

CA011158 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Hundreds of demonstrators in Queque this morning demanded that legal action be taken against the former minister without portfolio and leader of ZAPU, Mr Nkomo, after the discovery of large quantities of arms on farms owned by his party. The demonstrations chanted pro-government slogans and acknowledged their support for the prime minister's recent decision to remove Mr Nkomo from the government. Some of the placards the demonstrators carried read "Down with Nkomo" and "Nkomo must be prosecuted." A ZBC reporter at the scene of the demonstration reports that the demonstrators also carried a black wooden coffin inscribed "Nkomo rest in peace." He added that the demonstration was peaceful.

MUGABE ASKS BRITAIN'S CARRINGTON FOR MORE HELP

CA261112 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, yesterday held talks with the visiting British foreign secretary, Lord Carrington. ZIANA reports that among the issues raised by the Zimbabwe delegation was the land acquisition program. The delegation expressed concern at the procedures that followed in acquiring land for resettlement purposes. It was noted that the British contribution of $30 million is not enough to complete the land acquisition process. The government also made a plea for increased British assistance for Zimbabwean students studying in Britain who are at present in financial difficulties. Another issue discussed was trade between the two countries. Lord Carrington was told that before UDI [unilateral declaration of independence] Britain was Zimbabwe's leading buyer but is now in the fifth position. The British Government was therefore urged to import more from Zimbabwe. On Namibia, Zimbabwe emphasized the need to exert maximum pressure on the Pretoria regime to grant the territory independence. Zimbabwe is not only engaged in the building of a new socioeconomic order which will serve the interests of its people, but is also fully involved in the current international affairs. This was said by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, at a dinner held for Lord Carrington in Salsibury last night. Comrade Mengwende said Zimbabwe has joined all international organizations which reflect its search for international peace and equality and sovereignty of nations. The minister also pointed out that Zimbabwe wants political stability and genuine progress in the struggle for economic liberation. In reply, Lord Carrington pledged his country's support and commitment towards Zimbabwe's development. He said his visit was in the spirit of reinforcing successes rather than dealing with failures.

END OF FICHE